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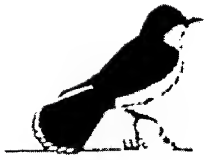

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PATAGONIA PICNIC IN MONTAUK
—or—
HOW WE ALL GO BIRDING

Compiled by Patricia J. Lindsay, with contributions from Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Vicki Bustamante, Doug Futuyma, Doug Gochfeld, Shai Mitra, Bryan Pfeiffer, Sean Sime, and Angus Wilson

The Patagonia Picnic Table Effect is a birding phenomenon named for a famous hotspot in southeast Arizona. As the Rose-throated Becards there drew more and more birders to the area, additional rarities and birds of interest continued to be discovered, attracting even more birders and resulting in even more discoveries. This same "Effect" played out in our own corner of the country this past fall and winter, in Montauk and surrounds, at the eastern tip of Long Island. The telling of how events unfolded is entertaining and instructive, and, perhaps most interesting, provides a glimpse into the motivations, expectations, and techniques of the many birders whose discoveries fill The Kingbird's *Regional Reports each season. The narratives presented here are more than a chronicle of ornithological events; they are also the story of how many of us approach our hobby in these early years of the 21st Century.*

13 October, West Lake Drive Patricia J. Lindsay, Bay Shore

Woven throughout last fall's run of rarities in Montauk were some longstanding personal relationships forged on the venerable Montauk Christmas Bird Count. When Andy Baldelli was cruising around Montauk on 13 October, he poked up West Lake Drive not only "to see if anything interesting is around," as he likes to say, but also out of longtime habit: this was his former CBC territory, and, although he had not covered it formally in years, he knew its hotspots intimately. His intuition paid off when he found a yellow-bellied kingbird flycatching from a fence line along the road, gave it a quick look, and drove off, happy to have found the *Tyrannus* he hoped for—even expected—at this date and place. But something tickled his brain, something didn't quite add up to Western Kingbird. This bird had an obviously deep gray breast and a contrasting white malar...and he hadn't seen white in the outer tail. He turned around and went back to study it more carefully. Realizing he had something really special, he got on the cell phone and dialed one of his former colleagues from the old Lake West CBC party, Shai Mitra.

Shai and I were at the Fire Island Hawkwatch, meanwhile, enjoying a fine morning of birding, when the phone rang. Andy's voice came through for a few seconds before the call was unceremoniously dropped. This happened a few more times, his voice vanishing abruptly into the ether, but not before we heard "...kingbird...not a Western...West Lake Drive." Despairing of Montauk's mysterious no-cell zone for the moment, we decided we'd better just get out there as fast as we could. We informed the birders at the watch, called the

regulars patrolling the beach, and took off. Eventually we got more details from Andy, who, while unsure of the exact identification at this point, knew that it was no Western Kingbird—and was therefore likely a bird never before recorded in New York.

That evening, as the three of us celebrated New York's first Cassin's Kingbird at a pub in Hampton Bays, Andy called Paul Buckley and Tony Lauro, whose company we had missed that day—long-time mentors of all three of us, and, perhaps not by coincidence, fellow alumni of the Lake West CBC party.

30 October, Rusty's Horse Farm Vicki Bustamante, Montauk

As it started out, October 30th was no different than any other typical 'squeeze in some birding before work' day for me. After my teenage sons left for school I hopped into my pick-up and headed out to check some of my usual birding haunts—Little Reed, Gin Beach, then out to the Montauk Lighthouse. Coming down the hill on my return from the lighthouse I could see below in Rusty's field, on the south side of Deep Hollow, a flock of about 250 Canada Geese. As I hadn't seen anything interesting that morning to slow me down, I still had some time, so I pulled off the highway and turned around in the well-worn dirt tracks on the roadside (presumably created by me and other birders, gulp!).

I parked alongside the north end of the field parallel to Old Montauk Highway. While setting up the scope I had this odd sense, and said to myself "there's a Barnacle Goose out there." I don't have any idea what made me think *Barnacle* of all the other geese I could have fancied. What made me think that random thought? Dismissing it as folly, I proceeded to methodically pan though the flock of Canada Geese. And then, slowly coming into the frame, it revealed itself. There it was, a Barnacle Goose!

"No way", I thought; I was seeing things—not so much because of the shock of seeing a Barnacle Goose, but because I had just predicted it! I had to take out the Sibley guide to be sure of what I was seeing. In Europe I've seen plenty of Barnacle Geese, but never in North America! Excitedly, I called Hugh McGuinness (interrupting him, no doubt, in class) and told him about my find and my strange prophecy.

Often at the outset of a day of birding with my friends, Karen and Barbara Rubinstein, just for fun I'll say something far-fetched like "Okay, let's go find a Painted Bunting!" It makes us giggle at the impossible challenge. But this was *different*, and I wonder if it has happened to other birders.

18 November, Deep Hollow Ranch Shai Mitra, Bay Shore

Active birders know from experience that extra scrutiny directed toward one rare bird often yields another, and that the process sometimes plays out in several iterations. Pat Lindsay's and my experiences on 18 November took this theme to a comical extreme. We actually mentioned "the Effect" early in the morning, when we found a Chat while twitching a previously reported Cattle Egret in Water Mill. Although a Chat is always very nice, I'm starting to wonder whether the egret was perhaps too obliging. Ditto for the Whistling Swans in East Hampton—but not for Vicki Bustamante's Barnacle Goose at Deep

Hollow, Montauk. This bird evaded our efforts to find it long enough to prompt a goose by goose examination of the entire neighborhood. During this search, my binoculars fell upon a Pink-footed Goose. This was of course very exciting, but the goose promptly disappeared from view, intensifying our excitement in a rather unpleasant way. While trying to relocate the Pink-foot, Pat found a Western-type kingbird, which also immediately disappeared. This engendered even more unpleasant excitement, as we were intensely aware that we needed to rule out Cassin's Kingbird, an example of which had been present recently just a couple of miles from where we were standing. A forced march to find additional vantages ensued. From the very most remote of these, I scoped the pasture and found an Ash-throated Flycatcher! Beyond anything resembling composure, I am reported to have said, "Pat, it would be very improbable to find an Ash-throat and a Western Kingbird at the same place and the same time." (For the record, she did not waver and ultimately was the first to re-find and positively identify the Western Kingbird.) It goes without saying that the Ash-throat quickly disappeared also, prompting a forced retreat back to our original vantages. Shocked, oxygen-deprived, and over-heated, I called in reinforcements. Gail Benson and Hugh McGuinness were relatively merciful in the sport they later made of these calls. It helped that all three birds cooperated. We eventually saw the Barnacle Goose, too, but it seems fortunate that we had such difficulty doing so at first.

22 November, Deep Hollow Ranch Sean Sime, Maplewood, NJ

Recalling my run for the Pink-footed Goose and other Montauk specialties is quite easy. Barring the Southern Nassau CBC it was the last time I went birding in 2007.

From an avian standpoint 2007 could not have been any more different than 2006 for me. A new home in NJ (no comment), an expecting wife and an extended stay at the in-laws during an extended period of home renovation decimated my roughly 100 trips in 2006 to a paltry six in '07. So, under the guise of, "It's a holiday and I can't disturb the new neighbors with power tools" I made my Thanksgiving plan.

First hurdle was getting out of the house at the in-laws. I wanted to be in Montauk at first light so at 3:30 I was packed and heading for the door. I quickly encountered problem number one. The alarm was on. This just as quickly brought up problem number one, subset A. I didn't know the code. So after waking up my pregnant wife (I know, I know, I'm a horrible person), I was on my way.

It was still dark as I was pulling into Montauk so I parked in the overlook just past the ranch and waited for the sun to come up. In the many birding trips I've begun in the predawn hours, I always wonder aloud what the first bird of the day will be. Guessing Mourning Dove is like betting red or black in craps. My dormant intuition had me playing it safe. I laughed to myself when the first bird of the day was a Woodcock slowly lumbering over my car silhouetted against the gray sky. Next were a pair of Woodcock chasing each other over the parking

lot. Over the next half hour four additional sightings of single birds flying from north to south had me completely puzzled as to how many Woodcock there really were.

The sun hadn't broken the horizon yet, but the increase in activity and my coffee (which resembled a five gallon pail more than a cup) had me ready to move. First to the fields south of the highway. No geese. Next, I walked the trail on the eastern edge of the horse farm. No geese. I'm not saying no rare geese, I mean not a single goose. I ran down the paranoia checklist; What were the winds last night? Was it hunting season in Montauk? Were the stable hands running dogs like golf courses? Did I just suck?

I was temporarily distracted by a Clay-colored Sparrow I found in the small corral at the head of the trail. My find had me hiking up into Teddy Roosevelt Park with renewed vigor. Alas, twelve Canada Geese! No Barnacle, no Pink-footed, no Western Kingbird, no Ash-throated Flycatcher. A distant group of finches, which had me brazenly expecting the recently reported Red Crossbills (first found by Ken and Sue Feustel 19 November), flew in and landed on the wires above me, showing their true House Finch colors. As an aside, I never thought of the House Finch song to have a "mocking" quality. I could have sworn in between all the bubbly ramblings that morning there was a distinct "Hah hah!"

Back I went to hike the trail once more. Bad feelings aside, it was still only 7:30 in the morning. The trail was bit brighter but the results were the same. On my way back towards the car for a coffee cure-all, the wind began to pick up. I kept on thinking I was hearing geese behind me, only to turn around and hear nothing but wind. This went on for a hundred yards or so until I was convinced I was having auditory hallucinations. I continued on, refusing to turn around again until the noise was growing so loud I couldn't resist.

I don't know if it was the 100-to-6 trip swing I mentioned earlier or if the next moments were actually as great as they seemed. I was in a low section of the trail looking north up a large hill. There were still no geese, but the sounds were growing louder and louder. I kept thinking, I should see them by now, it's so loud, until finally the first group of geese crested the hill. A few dozen were quickly followed by dozens more, then even more. The cavalry had arrived! I scanned the flying birds as quickly as I could without luck, but distinctly remember such a feeling of possibility. They COULD be in there. It's the same feeling I had when I was twelve and learned Wood Ducks can be found in wintering groups of Mallards and found my first one in a small creek near my house. I guess "possibility" is the core of why we search. It's comforting to know that 23 years later it still feels as good.

The majority of the geese flew south across Montauk highway so I hustled out to scan. Some more cars had shown up and I got a few people on the Clay-colored while I "coffee'd up." I estimated about 250-300 geese in the south field. Two scope scans produced nothing. On the third the Barnacle Goose was front and center. Patience paid off. Another umpteen scans didn't turn up the Pink-footed. Patience is overrated. Back to the car.

I ran into Seth Ausabel, Isaac Grant and another fellow whose name escapes me (but whose disdain for rarity sightings being kept quiet I can still hear today). I remember him being terribly upset more people didn't get to see an Anna's Hummingbird frequenting a private residence upstate.

Did I mention listing is a cancer?

We decided to play the odds, exchange cell numbers and split up. Seth and the others were going to check an area nearby and I would stay put. I cringe thinking back to the days when a sighting was only learned about at the end of the day when somebody called you on the land line. What seemed like moments later the phone rang. "We got the bird!" Off I went. The Pink-footed Goose was feeding with maybe 75 geese within a private community, but visible from a public road outside the gate. The views were distant, but good. Not five minutes later the geese looked up at the sky, craned their necks in unison, froze, then took off towards the north end of the ranch.

The four of us decided to try our luck from Teddy Roosevelt again. We found a vantage point which allowed views of a second feeding station and pond. The Pink-footed was leisurely strolling about, albeit 200 yards away. I quickly noticed a bird flycatching near the geese. It was briefly out of view, but then came up on a fencepost. My binocular view suggested Western Kingbird. Seth's scope view confirmed it. While Seth was calling others on his phone I noticed a second flycatcher as Isaac was simultaneously commenting he was hearing crossbills.

I'm thinking clean sweep at this point. Ahh the possibilities! Only problem was the second flycatcher looked like another Western Kingbird. Only one had been reported from the area, but once again Seth's scope confirmed what my binoculars suggested. I can't remember who visually confirmed the Red Crossbills, but at this point we were all hearing them and eventually enjoyed scope views of many birds to our north.

Euphoria eased into contentment and as the caffeine wore off contentment came to rest as a big sigh of relief.

I spent the drive back to New Jersey in horrible traffic. The only time I smiled was when I wondered how miserable I would have been if I didn't see any of the rarities. Alas, after a long, great day of looking at birds there really is nothing like eating one. I trudged through the door at the in-laws to a beautiful turkey waiting for me.

I have many things to be thankful for; a healthy baby girl (are there age restrictions for NYSARC reports?), a loving family, not to mention a wonderful network of birding friends, but on that Thanksgiving I was most thankful for one thing. I didn't miss it.

23 November, Montauk to Mecox **Doug Gochfeld, Brooklyn**

After seeing the Barnacle Goose in Rusty's field and the Clay-colored Sparrow on the path at the Deep Hollow Ranch, Shane Blodgett and Doug Gochfeld

connected with the Pink-footed Goose, 45-50 Red Crossbills, 46 American Pipits, and several Horned Larks at Teddy Roosevelt County Park. Then it was on to Montauk Point, where there were more surprises in store.

As soon as we pulled into the parking lot at the Point we ran into a couple of birders looking at, of all things, an Ovenbird, one of the most unexpected birds of the day, in the same shrubs as an immature White-crowned Sparrow. Satisfied, we went to scope the point. There was a single Brant, most notable as our fourth goose species of the day. Shawn and Mike were already there and they had a first cycle Iceland Gull, already ID'd, sitting on the rocks right in front of the concession stand. They also called a flyby Common Redpoll that we may have overlooked without their help. Satisfied we went back to the Ranch where it was round three in our quest for the Ash-throated. It had been seen ten minutes before we got there, but round three would turn out just as the other two tries, and Ash-throated would be our only disappointing miss of the day. We then worked back to the west making three stops before we ran out of steam (a.k.a. light).

At Hook Pond, we found the two previously reported Tundra Swans. Scoping Sagaponack Pond, with the wind whipping directly in our faces, we managed to find some Bonaparte's Gulls, and Shane picked out a very late Lesser Yellowlegs. Then as we scoped the ocean (picking up the usuals), I noticed two passerines whiz by east-to-west, but was sluggish in calling them out until they were already past us and zipping to the west. I called out swallows, but they were gone very fast, and Shane was never able to get on them. Disappointed at missing good looks at two potential Cave Swallows, we packed it in and headed over to Mecox Bay, hoping for a good gull or maybe some more swallows.

Within two minutes of scoping directly east down the beach for swallows (and while I had briefly turned to the northwest to survey the pond itself) Shane yelled that there were swallows right there. Four swallows buzzed me, almost hitting me, but again neither of us got any definitive looks at them, except that they reminded us of Tree Swallows, if anything.

We redoubled our vigilance, and were very soon rewarded with a distant swallow coming towards us from the east. We ID'd it as a Cave Swallow, and as it drew adjacent to us it got blown directly out to the south, so far out over the ocean that we lost sight of it, before I yelled "it's right here!" It wasn't the same bird of course, but it sure was a Cave Swallow. I got excellent looks as the bird appeared right in front of us to the east, but instead of continuing it went back over the dunes to the east where it zipped back and forth a couple of times, almost landing, before continuing east where it glanced off the window of a house on the dunes and we lost sight of it. I got exceptional looks at this life bird, and couldn't have been happier with every single field mark.

We ended up with five views of Cave Swallow, which constituted four or five different birds. Hugh McGuinness showed up for a brief time, and got a

look at the fourth bird, before it too disappeared out of sight over the ocean.

An amazing (and exhausting) day out east!

23 November, Hither Hills State Park & 24 November, Montauk Dump
Angus Wilson, New York City and Springs, East Hampton

While most visiting birders were content with the avian riches in the Deep Hollow valley, Rita's horse farm and Montauk Point, I couldn't help thinking that additional rarities might lurk in the other areas of good habitat on the eastern tip of the South Fork. Here are two brief vignettes from one weekend that bring home this point.

Throughout the season, I'd been popping into the parking lot above the campgrounds at Hither Hills State Park just west of Montauk, a raised vantage point that offers good views along the beach towards Napeague, the sandy isthmus that separates Montauk from the rest of Long Island. This accessible area has scattered vegetation that often holds migrant landbirds. On the morning of 23 November I was greeted by clear blue skies and a steady northwest wind that had been pushing throughout the night. Ideal conditions, I thought, to sweep migrants across the Sound onto the eastern end of Long Island. Some newly arrived American Tree Sparrows and Snow Buntings were scratching around the abandoned camp sites and a huge congregation of Northern Gannets and Laughing Gulls were feeding over schooling fish.

As I walked over the narrow dune onto the beach to watch the frenzy, I noticed a small bird flitting towards me down the beach. After a moment of puzzlement, I realized this was a tiny swallow and immediately snapped my binoculars onto it. I could see that the throat was brick red as was the forehead, with a dark band separating the two like a miniature mask of Zorro. As the swallow sped past, I also noted the dark back, square rump patch of a similar color to the throat and the short, squared tail - CAVE SWALLOW! As the bird headed west down the dunes, I dialed Hugh McGuinness who picked up almost instantly. "OK, what have you got?" he asked knowingly. It was gratifying to learn that later that day, he and others were to see several Cave Swallows at Mecox, 18.5 miles to the southwest. No doubt these were part of the same incursion but unfortunately, disappeared as quickly as they had arrived.

The next day, I repeated my tour of potential migrant traps en route to Deep Hollow, this time checking the former Montauk town dump. The landfill has been capped and is covered by waist high grass, but it offers a magnificent view across Block Island Sound and has a rich history as a vagrant trap. After only a few minutes walking through the grass, I heard an unfamiliar "Widit" call and looked up to see a Western Kingbird fly over my head and perch briefly on the boundary fence. Ah ha! Vindication! With two in Deep Hollow and a third I had spotted hawking insects in the yard of the Ranger Housing at Montauk Point, it seemed reasonable to count this as a remarkable fourth Western Kingbird in Montauk.

24 November, Rita's Horse Farm Seth Ausubel, Queens

2007 was an amazing year for New York State birders, and the long Thanksgiving weekend was quite a time at Montauk. On Thanksgiving Day, I saw most of the rarities at Deep Hollow Ranch, including the Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, two Western Kingbirds, Clay-colored Sparrow, and 30 Red Crossbills. But the Ash-throated Flycatcher had eluded me. On Saturday 24 November, I was urged east again by my friend Gene Herskovics.

Despite a cold north wind that morning, the geese and crossbills were most obliging at Deep Hollow. But the Ash-throated Flycatcher was not to be seen. Late in the morning, the wind was still blowing strong, but the sun's warmth was noticeable. I was inspired to try the next corral to the west, Rita's Stables. This spot, about a mile from Deep Hollow Ranch, has all the right qualities for those western rarities on a windy November day: a large corral sheltered by thick brush and with a southern exposure, a long fence line, and a pond. The livestock provides great fodder for insects, and thus flycatchers.

It's a short walk to the corral area, and within a minute, I spotted a flycatcher along the western fence line. Before I could get my binoculars up, it flew across the corral to the north and disappeared into the brush. Gene noticed it too, and we both shouted "Ash-throated!?" But we had to get a better look to eliminate Eastern Phoebe and other *Myiarchus* species (yeah, right).

The local stallion had the afternoon out of the barn. As we noticed him, it was clear that he had already noticed us. He seemed a bit proud and ornery. We walked around the back of the corral, outside the fence. The fence was flimsy, indeed. I wondered aloud whether the thin wires along the top were live. Bravely, we pushed on.

Suddenly, the stallion whinnied. He snorted and stomped! His nostrils flared! He charged toward us at full gallop! His eyes glared, seeming to be on fire! At about 20 yards, he suddenly stopped. I looked into his black eye. He snorted again. Then he turned around, and started munching contentedly on some hay. I'm sure our excellent birder etiquette saved us.

Anyway, we quickly located and got good looks at the Ash-throated Flycatcher. The bird stayed for a week or more. We got out of there before the stallion finished his hay.

3 December, Startop Estates Douglas J. Futuyma, Stony Brook

Fellow Long Island birder Doug Futuyma had been following these events vicariously while birding in southern Chile. Reading his email, he wondered at first if some of the subject lines were meant specifically for him as he birded the original Patagonia! When he finally got back and made his way out to Montauk, he added a chapter of his own to the legacy of "the Effect."

On the pleasantly overcast, mild morning of December 3, 2007, a Monday, I arrived at Deep Hollow Ranch at 8:30 in search of the rarities that had been reported, especially the Pink-footed Goose, a species I had not seen in New York. I soon located the Barnacle Goose grazing with Canada geese on the privately owned hillside at Startop Ranch, but despite hours of searching, could

not find my main quarry. At about 1:30, as the arrival of a front brought strong, cold winds from the northwest, I encountered Jimmy Woodward and Nealand Hill, visiting from Oklahoma City, at Third House in Teddy Roosevelt County Park. They had seen the Pink-footed that morning to the north of Third House, but were desperately searching for the Barnacle Goose. I told them where I had seen it hours before, and they, in turn, accompanied me to a rise from which we could see an obscured dark-headed goose close to where they had seen the Pink-footed. I guessed that it might be better visible from the hilltop in Startop Estates (it was not, in the event), so I drove there and followed a trail of trodden grass uphill, in what I thought was public (or at least not signed) property.

There I found the Barnacle Goose still in place, even as the Oklahomans arrived below, so I waved them up to join me. As they (visually) devoured the goose, a bird alighted on a railing about 70 yards away. I was astonished to see in my telescope a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, apparently an immature with an only moderately long tail. It was all I could do to turn the visitors' attention from the Barnacle Goose to a bird they can see daily in season at home, but I wanted other observers to corroborate this sighting, should the bird not be seen again. Almost as soon as they got on the bird and confirmed it, the owner of the property drove in and vehemently let us know that we were trespassing, so we reluctantly descended to the road and had a distressingly brief study of the now considerably more distant flycatcher before it disappeared behind a hedgerow (just where we had been standing!). Moments later, Vicki Bustamante, whom I had called, arrived from her nearby home, but the bird did not reappear in the next 20 minutes while we waited together from this lower vantage point. I departed with mixed feelings of elation at having spotted a notable bird (my first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for the state) and anxiety that it might not be seen by other New York birders. Happily, Hugh McGuinness saw the flycatcher early the next morning, as did many other people through 14 December.

15 Dec, Amagansett Bryan Pfeiffer, Plainfield, Vermont

Minutes before finding a Least Flycatcher on the Mountauk Christmas Count, I was thinking about The Pig. A landmark on the count, The Pig lived in a pen near the Amagansett train station. Over the years we would often find decent birds near The Pig: Brown Thrasher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Chipping Sparrow, for example.

The Pig was gone in 2007. But a nice bird was there nevertheless: Least Flycatcher. At first only an *Empidonax* species, a better find had fluttered in my imagination. Its short primary projection was obvious. Its bill, at first glance, seemed small and narrow. Satisfied that the bird itself was satisfied, actively feeding along a hedgerow and unlikely to go anywhere, I called Hugh McGuinness and told him to stop at the car and haul along my camera gear.

Yet even before Hugh and other birders arrived, my visions of Dusky Flycatcher or a "Western" Flycatcher had faded. A better look at the bill, eye-ring, throat and other plumage made it clear this individual was a Least Flycatcher. Not a huge discovery, but I was happy nonetheless to have

contributed to the avalanche of Tyrannidae on the 2007 Montauk count. I like to think The Pig would have approved.

15 Dec, Rita's Stables Bobby Berlingeri, Elmont

Having worked the "Lake West" section of the Montauk CBC for the past few years, we've learned how to carefully manage our time and plan an itinerary to maximize productivity. Hugh McGuinness, the count compiler, mentioned to Rich Kelly, our area leader, that a relative newcomer to the area named Rich Kaskin was hoping to participate. Janice Berlingeri and I were happy to have him along for the day.

Starting at the Harbor as we always do, I was immediately impressed with Rich's seawatching ability, which equally carried over in our search for land birds. Knowing that an Ash-throated Flycatcher had been seen at Rita's Stables earlier in the season, our hope was that this bird had survived and was still lingering in the area. Certainly a long shot, but within reason with the several species of flycatchers being seen by many in Montauk this fall.

I chose to cover Rita's during the afternoon hours, knowing that the sun angle and sunny areas would then be most conducive for activity, and they were. We started where Old West Lake Drive meets with Route 27 and worked west along a path leading toward the Horse Farm. When got up to the end of the path, where one has an over-view of the farm, we all heard a soft call note coming from the hedge to our right. Rich, having lived in Texas for a time immediately recognized the call as that of an Ash-throat. It only took us seconds before we all had clear views of the bird, within about 20 feet for about 30 seconds. The bird moved north to some private residences over the next few minutes, remaining out of sight, though occasionally calling, for the next 15 minutes or so. During this period, I called both Rich Kelly and Hugh McGuinness to tell of the discovery. Hugh commented: "You just found the fifth flycatcher species of the day!" This proved to be a slight overstatement, because a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher which had been present at Deep Hollow through the previous day failed to show up on the day of the count. Still, four count-day flycatchers plus another count-week species added up to quite an accomplishment for this most memorable CBC day which many of us will never forget!

15 Dec, Deep Hollow Patricia Lindsay, Bay Shore

This year's Montauk CBC was poignant for me, because my traditional Lake East territory encompasses Deep Hollow, adding an extra personal layer to the task of seeking several of the birds described above for the records of this venerable CBC. Also, for the first time ever, Shai Mitra, my constant companion, was joining me at Lake East, after several years' absence following his years with the rival Lake West group. Over the course of a beautiful day we dutifully recorded the Pink-footed and Barnacle geese, one of the Western Kingbirds was tallied in Point South's portion of the Hollow, and other amazing finds were made, as described above. But we could not find the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. In searching for it we found or re-found an Osprey, an Eastern Phoebe, Orange-crowned and Palm warblers, Rusty Blackbird, Red Crossbills,

and more. The compilation was rivetting as news of the day's successes and failures (mostly successes), as well as the perennial cloak and dagger intrigues of inter-party poachings, were revealed, and this unique season was concluded with an impressive tally of 135 species. Also striking was this season's sense of collective enterprise, which although always a central merit of the CBCs, was unusually rich this year—something I hope these interwoven narratives express.

EXEMPLARY REPORTS OF RARE BIRDS FROM 2004

The documentation at the heart of NYSARC's work is a treasure trove of information that few people ever see. Although any report submitted to NYSARC is available upon request to interested persons, by arrangement with the Secretary and Chair, this seldom happens in practice. In appreciation of the hard work and skill of our many contributors, NYSARC will select two reports each year for publication in *The Kingbird*. Highlighting these reports is meant not only to reward outstanding work, but also to provide models of how documentary evidence can be presented in an effective manner. As emphasized each year in our Annual Reports, the format and medium of a report is secondary to its content. The two reports chosen for 2004 are rather different in organization, but they both provide superb documentation and thorough analysis for their respective records, both of which were remarkable inland occurrences of species rare even in coastal New York.

2004-22-A
Received 6-19-2004
Acknowledged 6-21-2004

SPECIES: Wilson's Plover
DATE: May 21, 2004
LOCATION: South spit of Sandy Pond outlet, Sandy Creek, Oswego County
TIME: First located at about 6:15 PM. Observed it steadily for 3 hours
LIGHT CONDITIONS: Clear and sunny
DISTANCE FROM BIRD: Less than 100 meters
OPTICS USED: Kowa TSN824 W/ 20x-60x zoom eyepiece, photos taken with Nikon Coolpix model 995 through scope
SUBMITTED BY: Kevin McGann, 7703 River Rd., Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Only one plover observed; appeared larger than nearby Semipalmated Sandpipers, although never seen together. The sandpipers preferred the wet shoreline and the plover the dry sand some 20-30 feet from the shore. No Semipalmated Plovers were on the beach when I was there. Shape, even through binoculars without any details undoubtedly plover like, thick necked and somewhat large headed. Primaries did not extend beyond tail. Brown back and wings, with no markings except very faint pale feather edges, not noticeable enough to say there was any, otherwise the brown was that of any Semipal Plover or Killdeer. Underside was clean, unspotted white up to the chest where a single and continuous black band went across the chest, starting from the shoulder. The band looked narrow, maybe even narrower that Semipal, but later with a little research found that the width of the band likely depends on the posture of the bird and as this bird was continually in a feeding posture and never seen in an alert posture can probably account for its narrowness. A white

band or collar went around the back of the neck, starting at a point adjacent to where the black chest band ended at the shoulder. The throat above the chest band was white to the base of the bill. The head had a white forehead and seemed less steep than either Semipal Plover or Killdeer and was edged by a faint bit of black on the top edge of the forehead (shows better in the pictures than in life). The white of the forehead extended around the side of the head over the eye tapering to a point a short distance behind the eye. Cheek, back of head and crown were the same brown as the back and wings. The eye was dark. The legs showed short visible tibia and long tarsus; color was a dull flesh color. Bill was all black and looked long for a small plover, shape and size seemed comparable to a Black-bellied Plover's; if the bill were folded backwards would come to near the back of the head.

I have no previous experience with this species but I am familiar with the other species of plover that migrate through this area including Semipalmated Plover and feel my description has eliminated that species, but might not eliminate all the world's plovers. Fortunately, I have included the attached pictures to reinforce the description.

This report written at 11:00 pm May 21, 2004 and re-edited June 9, 2004

Other observers: David Wheeler initially found the bird but was not present while I was there. To the best of my knowledge no one else saw the bird and it was not present the following day when David, Bill Purcell and myself were there.

2004-49-D
Received electronically 5-26-2005
Acknowledged 5-26-2005

Black Guillemot (first-winter) ***(Cepphus grylle)***
Wells College boat house, Aurora, Cayuga County; New York
30 October 2004 seen briefly at 1:15-1:30 pm, but more consistently at 3:15-4:15 pm; full overcast, 10-15 knot breeze from the south, mid-60s
31 October 2004 briefly at 2:45 pm; full overcast, 15+ knot breeze from the west, mid-50s
Description by Curtis Marantz
also seen by Mike Harvey, Tim Lenz, Jesse Ellis, Kevin and Jay McGowan, Ken Rosenberg, Mark Chao, Meena Haribal, and many others

My understanding is that this bird was first found at Myers Point by Paul Hurtado on 23 October 2004, but that it was relocated at Aurora by Carol Schmitt on 27 October. Fortunately, I happened to be home checking my email this afternoon when a message was posted that Mike Harvey and Tim Lenz had relocated the bird from the cliffs south of Aurora at about 12:30 pm. I immediately left home and headed up to look for the bird. Because the bird, and the birders who were following it, moved north to the vicinity of the Wells College boathouse, it took me a short while to find the right spot. Unfortunately,

I arrived just after the bird had been up for a prolonged period of time, and it was now foraging actively and spending very little time at the surface. I managed to see the bird twice briefly between about 1:15 and 1:30 pm, after which, we lost it altogether. The difficult conditions resulted in its taking us nearly two hours to relocate the guillemot, which was now about 75-150 meters offshore to the northwest of the boathouse and not far north of where I had first seen it. Myself and many others then spent about the next hour observing this bird intermittently as it foraged actively. The guillemot spent little time at the surface, however, seemingly spending a few minutes at a time underwater and only 10-15 seconds at the surface. On a few occasions, the bird remained at the surface for a minute or two, but even then it was remarkably difficult to see. The overcast conditions facilitated our assessment of colors, but they also resulted in a moderate amount of glare off the water and they made the water appear gray instead of blue. Combined with the whitecaps that resulted from the wind and the bird's small size, this made it exceptionally difficult to locate and follow the guillemot even though it was not that far away. I suspect my views of this bird lasted no more than five minutes in all because most observations lasted less than 30 seconds and many were little more than brief glimpses of a few seconds. I used primarily my 20-60× spotting scope to observe this bird, often at a relatively high magnification.

I returned to Aurora on 31 October to word that the bird had been seen briefly mid-morning but subsequently lost. After about an hour-and-a-half of looking, we gave up and continued on to Montezuma. The guillemot had apparently not been refound as of our return at about 2:15 pm, but about a half-hour later, I spotted the bird as it flew in from the southwest, curving inward toward the shore and eventually landing 100-150 meters to the northwest of the boat dock. I obtained moderately good views of the guillemot in flight and briefly on the water, but I was unable to relocate the bird after its first dive. Only one or two others managed to even glimpse the bird during the next 45 minutes that we scanned the relatively turbulent waters. That the wind waves were even higher this afternoon than they were the previous day made relocating the bird on the water almost impossible.

This was a small, duck-like bird that was clearly smaller than the Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and American Black Ducks (*A. rubripes*) that were in the same general area. I suspect that the guillemot was instead about the size of a Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), but it was quite different in shape, with a somewhat shorter and definitely stockier neck. Even still, this bird seemed to sit higher on the water than do many alcids, and its neck was often outstretched, so the head was held higher than is typical of a murrelet. Rather characteristic was the bird's shape, which combined a moderately long and slim bill, a sloping forehead, a rounded crown, a relatively short and somewhat stocky neck, and a rounded body. The short, seemingly rounded tail was often obscured, but on occasion, the guillemot sat with its tail cocked upward. This bird was extensively white, but with black and possibly gray mottling scattered about the plumage. The bird had a distinctly capped appearance that resulted from the forehead and crown being blackish back to the junction of the crown and nape.

My impression was that there was fine mottling or scaling of white scattered through the black cap, but these markings resulted in little more than a somewhat frosted appearance to a generally well-defined cap that was rounded at its rear terminus. Contrasting with the black cap, the face and neck were whitish throughout. About the only contrast that I detected in the face was what appeared to be a short stripe or wedge of black that extended back from the eyes a short way across the top of the auriculars. I believed at the time of the observations that the lores were white, but by the time I typed this description I was a little unclear about this [that the lores were indeed white was confirmed by photographs taken by Kevin and Jay McGowan]. The nape and neck appeared entirely whitish, though possibly with some grayish clouding scattered about. I further believe that the breast was white to pale grayish with little in the way of markings.

I had a difficult time assessing the pattern of the upperparts. The back was extensively dark, but it did not seem to be entirely black. I could never be certain whether the upperparts were evenly dark gray, or instead, a combination of black and white that blended to appear grayish. If I had to guess, I probably would have gone with the latter. I further believe that there were whitish stripes on the back or scapulars, but I could never really be sure of their presence, much less their location. What I can say is that the pattern was unlike the braces evident on a *Brachyramphus* murrelet. The wings were more easily seen, but again, their pattern was difficult to assess. Clearly apparent was a white panel on the coverts that contrasted with darker remiges, but the finer details of this pattern were difficult to determine. The greater and median coverts were mostly white, but with a relatively narrow, black stripe that extended diagonally through the wing panel. I suspect that this stripe represented the bases of the greater coverts, but it is possible that it instead represented the tips of the median coverts. [Subsequent examination of photographs posted by the McGowans revealed two narrow stripes of black crossing the wing panel at a slight angle to one another. Even in the photos, which were remarkably good given the conditions, it was difficult to determine precisely which parts of the coverts were white and which were black.] The rear part of the wing appeared significantly darker than the coverts, so it accentuated the white panel in the middle of the wing. Although the rear part of the bird appeared dark, I was a bit unclear precisely which feather tracts were involved. The remiges appeared to be largely dark, but the rump was mostly if not entirely white. The uppertail and undertail coverts were also white, but the short, rounded tail was primarily dark gray to blackish. Given that the bird spent its entire time either under or at the surface of the water, it was difficult to see much on its underparts. This said, the breast appeared to be whitish, and the flanks and undertail coverts, the latter seen when the bird cocked its tail upward, appeared white in their entirety. The bird was therefore white along the waterline. Because I never saw the guillemot fly or even flap its wings on the first day, my views of the partially open wings occurred exclusively when the bird spread the wings slightly as it dove. The long, relatively slim bill tapered to a sharp point. I estimated that the bill was almost as long as the head was wide, so this bird appeared considerably longer-billed than do most murrelets. The bill appeared to be black throughout.

The eyes were dark and the legs (or feet) seemed to be pale (based on one brief glimpse when the bird scratched). I never saw the open wings nor the underwing coverts on the first day.

My views of the bird in flight on 31 October were brief, but nonetheless, they revealed several things that I had failed to note on the bird when it was on the water the previous day. In flight, this bird was relatively small and heavy-bodied, with the wings short and relatively rounded, the tail short and rounded, and the neck short and stocky. In essence, the bird looked typical of a medium-sized alcid (i.e., a small football with wings). Also like most alcids, it flew with rapid and relatively shallow wing-beats. The bird spread its tail and dropped its feet before plunging into the moderately turbulent water. In flight, the guillemot appeared mostly whitish but with regions of black or gray noticeable on the upperparts. The upperparts were somewhat uneven in appearance and the wings were characterized by the contrast between the mostly white panel on the coverts and the darker remiges. A similar contrast was also evident between the white rump and the blackish tail. My impression was that the undersides of the remiges were dark, but the underwing coverts were unmistakably white. I was also relatively certain that the feet, seen when the bird came in for a landing, were webbed and some shade of pinkish. My views of the bird on the water were so brief today that I could do little more than confirm that it was the same bird that I had seen the previous day based on its general patterns. I noted the capped appearance and a bit of contrast between white and black, but very little else at this time.

Not only was this my first Black Guillemot on Cayuga Lake, but it was also the first one that I have seen in New York. I know that I have previously seen the species in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and in Maine, and I believe that I have also seen it in New Brunswick and/or Nova Scotia, the latter many years ago. Most of these birds that I have seen have been in alternate plumage, but I have seen at least a few along the Massachusetts coast during winter. I have far more experience with Pigeon Guillemots (*C. columba*) from the West Coast, mostly in California, but again, I have seen few in non-alternate plumages. I have seen all of the similar plumages of murrelets, including the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) that spent a few days at the south end of Cayuga Lake in 2001 (I saw it on 18 December).

Despite my lack of extensive experience with basic- and juvenal-plumaged guillemots, I have no doubt whatsoever that the bird that myself and others saw at Aurora in late October was indeed a Black Guillemot. The bird was clearly an alcid based on its small size, characteristic shape, and rapid flight. To my knowledge, all of the remaining Atlantic coast alcids are mostly, if not entirely, blackish above in all plumages, so Razorbill (*Alca torda*), Dovekie (*Alle alle*), Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), and both murres (*Uria aalge* and *U. lomvia*) are easily eliminated. More similar in plumage patterns, but a bit smaller in size are the *Brachyramphus* murrelets. Even still, only a basic-plumaged Kittlitz's Murrelet (*B. brevirostris*) is as white in the face as was the bird we saw. In addition to the remote possibility of this species ever appearing on a lake in upstate New York, Kittlitz's Murrelet is tiny and has a very short bill and a mostly white face, but dark upperparts with the white braces typical of the

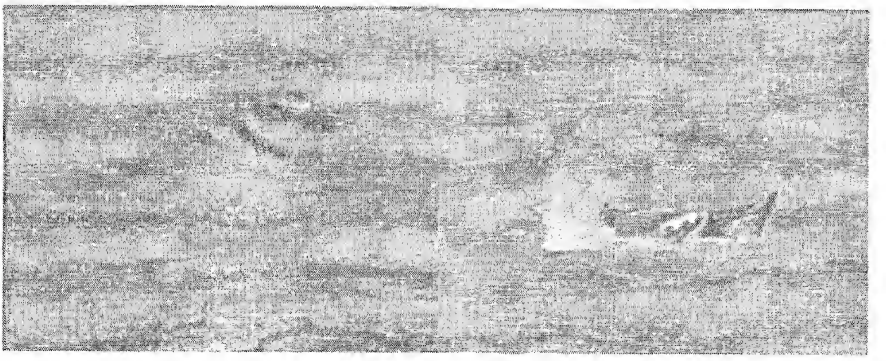
genus. Both Marbled (*B. marmoratus*) and Long-billed Murrelets are likewise smaller and mostly dark above with braces running down the scapulars instead of white patches on the coverts. None of the other alcids are even as similar as the above species, with one exception. Pigeon Guillemot is very similar to Black in all plumages. Moreover, the dark band across the coverts that is so distinctive on Pigeon Guillemots in summer is much less useful for identification in fall and winter because immature Blacks have dark spots across the covert panel that produce a pattern not unlike that of a Pigeon Guillemot. The possibility of a Pigeon Guillemot ever appearing in New York is remote, but even still, the white underwings on the Aurora bird served to identify it unequivocally as a Black Guillemot. On average, Black Guillemots are also paler above than are Pigeons, but I'm not sure that my views of the Aurora bird were sufficient to have identified it with confidence had I not seen the underwings.

Based on the text in Cramp *et al.* (1985. Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa: the birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol. IV. Oxford University Press, Oxford), it appears that aging and the subspecific identification of these birds can be challenging. This results in part from the fact that the same characters used to age these birds also vary geographically (such as the extent of white on the upperparts and of the black in the wing panel). Based on my read of the BWP account, it would appear that the Aurora bird was too extensively black above, in the face, and on the covert panel for an adult from a high Arctic population, but the determination of whether it was an adult or a first-winter bird from a closer population may be more difficult. It still appears, however, that the obvious dark cap and, especially, the dusky band across the wing panel are indicative of first-basic plumage, at least if this was a North American bird. It was less clear to me from the BWP account whether adult birds from Europe can show a similar pattern on the head and coverts during winter (because birds from these populations were said to be more extensively black in each plumage-class than are North American birds).

A quick check of Levine (1998. Bull's birds of New York state. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca) revealed only one previous record for Black Guillemot in upstate New York, which involved one bird seen on Lake Champlain at Westport, Essex County, on 7 January 1978. Moreover, Veit and Petersen (1993. Birds of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts) listed only two inland records in Massachusetts (neither in the recent past), and Zeranski and Baptist (1990. Connecticut birds. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire) listed only one for Connecticut (at Hartford on 1 January 1934) but with the comment that several more birds were seen upriver in Massachusetts the following day (these not mentioned by Veit and Petersen). Although the number of inland records in the region may have been fewer than I had expected, I was not surprised that the species was an extreme rarity anywhere inland. More surprising to me was the rarity of this species even along the coast of Long Island, where it appears that there have been only a few dozen records in all.

The bulk of my description was typed from memory on 30 October 2004 after I returned home from seeing this bird but before I consulted any field guides or other references. I added a few additional notes the next day following

my observations of the bird a second time and after I had a chance to look at the photographs taken by the McGowans. I eventually completed this account on 10 April 2005 after I began to free up some time following the completion of my dissertation. My understanding is that this bird was last seen at Aurora on 12 November 2004.



Left: Wilson's Plover, Sandy Pond outlet, Sandy Creek, Oswego County, 21 May 2004, copyright Kevin McGann. Right: Black Guillemot, Aurora Bay, Cayuga County, 30 October 2004, copyright Jay McGowan.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2004

The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) reviewed 130 reports from 2004, involving 85 separate sightings, and an additional 15 reports from 2003 or earlier. Reports were received from all over the state, with 30 of the 62 counties represented. As usual, three counties dominated the submissions (Monroe 24, Suffolk 15 and Niagara 14), a reflection of the many excellent birding spots in these areas and commensurate number of resident and visiting birders. The overall acceptance rate remains high at 92%. Interestingly, the number of sightings that were documented by more than one submission dropped significantly, from 35% in 2003 to only 27% in 2004. This is unexpected given the ever-faster reporting of rare birds via the Internet and mobile phones. With this in mind, the Committee wishes to stress that all observers, not just the initial finders, are encouraged to submit reports. Receipt of multiple reports provides a fuller account of the sighting and helps to corroborate important details, especially subjective features such as size, flight style and vocalizations. Independent rather than collaborative reports are preferred. A common error is to assume your co-observers will provide a report—all too often they will be thinking the same and as a result no report will reach the Committee. Likewise, it is important not to skimp on the details under the (often mistaken) assumption that the missing information will be provided by others. The number of contributors (a total of 72) was also down slightly from last year. Their names are listed alongside accepted reports as well as at the end of this document, and on behalf of the New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), the Committee wishes to thank all of the contributors for their reports. Where possible, we will include the name of the original finder in the narrative even when they failed to submit a report. Naturally, we would encourage all finders to submit details as a permanent record of their discovery. We also extend our appreciation to the cadre of hard working Kingbird Regional Editors, who have taken pains to encourage the proper documentation of rare birds, and to a number of experts in bird identification who helped in the review process.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA website:
<http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/NYSARChome.htm>

Here you will also find an online reporting form that allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. A list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is also provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very

grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Director and Website administrator) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. Those who prefer not to use the online reporting form are encouraged to send us documentation (written and photographic) via email or regular mail. Reports, as well as any other correspondence for the Committee, should be sent to:

Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Road
Churchville, NY 14428

OTHER COMMITTEE NEWS

Voting on the 2004 reports was finalized at the NYSARC Annual Meeting held in Bay Shore, Long Island on 10 September 2006. These day-long meetings of the Committee are used to finalize second and third rounds of voting, review potential additions to the New York State Checklist, debate other changes to the Review List and attend to miscellaneous Committee business.

HIGHLIGHTS

Accepted reports from 2004 include several important state rarities, the most notable being **Cinnamon Teal** (*Aythya cyanoptera*), **Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*), and **Calliope Hummingbird** (*Stellula calliope*). The Committee also accepted a series of excellent reports documenting a **Black Guillemot** (*Cepphus grylle*) that spent several weeks on Cayuga Lake, one of very few inland records for this coastal species. Among several older reports that were accepted, two provided new additions to the NYS avifauna. A sight report from two experienced observers of a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma castro*) observed on the edge of the Continental Shelf in July 1997 brings the New York State Checklist to 467 species. A 1990 report of a **Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*) attributed to the western subspecies ***caniceps*** represents the first documented occurrence of this distinctive taxon. Unless otherwise stated, each report number (e.g., Cinnamon Teal 2004-9-A/E, below) refers to a single individual bird. The letters following the number indicate how many independent reports were received (five in the example just given). County names appear in bold font, and a few standard abbreviations, consistent with those in *The Kingbird* Regional Reports, are employed to save space.

2004 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)
2004-55-A One, Sulphur Springs Rd, Paris, **Oneida,** 23 Oct (Brenda Best, ph Jody Hildreth)

2004-77-A One, Kings Ferry, **Cayuga,** 31 Oct (Curtis Marantz)
2004-80-A Two, Town of Kendall, **Orleans,** 27 Mar (Robert G. Spahn)
The occurrence of Ross's Goose in the Northeast has increased steadily over the past decade and there are now multiple reports from NYS each winter. Acknowledging this sustained increase, the species has been removed from the NYSARC Review List (NYSARC 2005). Descriptions should still be included with all reports to Regional Editors, and the possibility of a hybrid Ross's x Snow Goose should be carefully considered.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)
2004-11-A Nine, Steiner Rd, Town of Newstead, **Erie,** 6 Mar (William W. Watson)
2004-41-A Two, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, **Genesee,** 30 Oct (Dominic Sherony, Gary Chapin)
2004-44-A One or two, Gypsum Pond, Oakfield, **Genesee,** 16 Nov (William W. Watson)
2004-45-A One, Ring-necked Marsh Overlook, **Orleans,** 16 Nov (William W. Watson)
All of these birds showed characteristics of the nominate subspecies (*hutchinsii*), often referred to as Richardson's Cackling Goose. The bulk of the population breeds in the central Canadian Arctic and uses the Mississippi Flyway to reach wintering grounds in several Mid-West states and Texas. Through careful documentation provided in these reports it has become apparent to NYSARC that this species regularly winters in western NY and elsewhere, sometimes in small flocks. Given the number and spread of reports received, Cackling Goose was removed from the NYSARC Review List in 2007 (see web site).

"Black" Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)
2004-13-A One, Marine Park, Brooklyn, **Kings,** 14-21 Mar (Angus Wilson, ph A. Wilson)
Careful scrutiny of the large flocks of "Atlantic" Brant (*B. b. hrota*) that winter in coastal NY has revealed small numbers of "Black" Brant, the dark plumaged population that winters along the Pacific Coast of North America and into Baja, Mexico. Brant that show intermediate characters and are of uncertain identity have also been documented in NY, and thus care must be taken to describe or photo-document details of the neck collar, extent of black on the underparts and tone of the upperparts.

Cinnamon Teal (*Aythya cyanoptera*)
2004-9-A/E One male, Priem Road, Hamlin, **Monroe,** 28-30 Mar (William W. Watson, Dominic Sherony, Geoff Buell, Robert G. Spahn, Carolyn T. Cass)
This male Cinnamon Teal, a first for Region 2, was discovered by Geoff Buell. The five reports provided a very good description of the bird but unfortunately no photographs were obtained. Like so many colorful waterfowl, Cinnamon Teal are sometimes kept by collectors, and the Committee carefully considered the familiar specter of an escape. In this case it was felt that the date was

reasonable for a wild bird migrating northwards with Green-winged Teal, perhaps moving up from the Gulf Coast of Texas and Mexico, where the two species might come into contact. The fact that it was present for only two days before vanishing is also consistent with it being a wild bird.

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal (*Aythya crecca crecca*)
2004-72-A One, Town of Dryden, **Tompkins,** 5-7 Mar & 25 Apr (Jay McGowan, ph J. McGowan)
This Old-World subspecies of Green-winged Teal (and candidate for full species) is consistently less common in central and western NY than down along the southern coast, where a few occur each winter. Excellent diagnostic photos accompanied this report.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
2004-1-A/C One male, Sodus Bay, Sodus, **Wayne,** 11 & 25 Jan, 17 Feb (Carolyn Jacobs, Robert G. Spahn, Barbara Herrgesell, ph R. Spahn)
2004-23-A One male, Little Sodus Bay, Fairhaven, **Cayuga,** 2 Feb (Kevin McGann, ph K. McGann)
Although annual, the number of Tufted Ducks observed in NY has decreased somewhat in the past few years. These two reports quite possibly pertain to the same breeding plumaged male.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica)*
2004-29-A One, Tiana Beach, Southampton, **Suffolk,** 18 May (Shaibal S. Mitra)
This well-described basic plumaged bird was studied by several observers as it swam on the ocean just east of Shinnecock Inlet. Unfortunately, it was not subsequently relocated.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)
2004-12-A/B One, Wolf's Pond State Park, Staten Island, **Richmond,** 14 Mar-10 Apr (Angus Wilson, Nikolas K. Haass)
The Western Grebe was first reported on 14 March by Peter Dorosh and is presumably the same individual that had frequented the area in previous winters (see NYSARC 2002-51-A/B and 2003-19-A). The same individual may also be responsible for regular sightings on the New Jersey side of Raritan Bay, a relatively short distance as the grebe paddles.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)
2004-17-A One adult, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens,** 16 May (Angus Wilson, ph A. Wilson)
This adult was photographed on the north side of the West Pond, where it bathed briefly, having flown in from the adjacent salt marsh. Sightings of White-faced Ibis have become more frequent as ibis populations continue to expand and observers make more effort to search for this western species in the summering flocks of Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*). See Fig. C, p. 49.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)
2004-75-A One immature, Weedsport, **Cayuga,** 24 Oct (Glenn Wolford, sketches and field notes included)
A resident of southern wetlands, Wood Stork is prone to periodic incursions into the Northeast, sometimes involving small flocks typically in the late summer and fall. This immature was spotted flying into a small swampy area and convincingly sketched as it probed in the water for food.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis calurus*)
2004-60-A One, Devil's Hole State Park, Lewiston, **Niagara,** 31 Oct (Willie D'Anna)
Initially spotted by Dean DiTommaso as it soared over the Niagara River gorge, this well-described adult showed characters of the dark western subspecies *calurus*, which has been documented in NY on occasion, including from hawkwatch sites along the Lake Ontario shore.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
2004-18-A One, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Mexico, **Oswego,** 25 May (Kevin McGann)
Seen as it soared over the hawkwatch site at Derby Hill, this apparent light morph adult was nicely described. Occurence of this species has become almost annual during the spring hawk flights along the south shore of Lake Ontario.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)
2004-81-A/B One, Braddock Bay Hawkwatch, Greece, **Monroe,** 30 Mar (Robert G. Spahn, Carolyn T. Cass)
Enough detail was provided on this notably large falcon moving above the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch to convince the Committee on the identification. Among the features noted were the appropriate size, shape and proportions, especially as compared to a Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*), and a two-toned underwing.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica)*
2005-36-A/D One immature, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, **Kings,** 13-23 Oct (Angus Wilson, Sean Sime, Yolanda Garcia, Rob Jett, ph A. Wilson, S. Sime, sketch Y. Garcia)
This confiding Purple Gallinule was discovered by Shane Blodgett on 13 October and provided nice views as it remained in a small marsh in Prospect Park until 23 October. Sadly, feather remains found after that date suggest that it fell victim to a predator. See Fig. B, p. 48.

Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)
2004-22-A One, Sandy Pond outlet, Town of Sandy Creek, **Oswego,** 21 May (Kevin McGann, ph K. McGann)
This Wilson's Plover was studied through a telescope for just under two hours in the evening of 21 May, the detailed written description supplemented by four

excellent photographs. The plover was discovered by David Wheeler, providing Region 5 with a wonderful first record, but, unfortunately, the bird was not relocated the next day. Wilson's Plover remains a fantastic find in New York State, and especially so far away from the ocean beaches of Long Island. The dark tone of the collar suggests a male, and the very extensive white on the forehead points to the Atlantic and Gulf Coast subspecies *wilsonia* rather than *beldingi*, which is resident in Baja California and western Mexico.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)
2004-20-A/C One, Mecox Bay, Southampton, **Suffolk,** 28-29 May (Susan S. Hoffmann, Angus Wilson, Ken Feustel, ph A. Wilson, K. Feustel)
This basic-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit was discovered by Ken and Sue Feustel when they stopped at Mecox Bay to perform a NYS Breeding Bird Atlas survey. A few days earlier, a storm or high tide had opened a channel between the saltwater pond and the Atlantic Ocean, creating an expansive sand flat attractive to migrating shorebirds. In spite of the holiday weekend traffic, at least fifty local birders managed to reach Mecox in time to see the godwit. Unfortunately, the breach to the ocean was only temporary and the flats began to recede as the water level of the pond increased again. The godwit was last seen shortly before dark on 29 May. The whitish underwings and rump were indicative of the nominate subspecies *L. l. lapponica*, which nests on arctic tundra in Scandinavia and Russia and winters widely across western Europe and coastal Africa. Interestingly, a very similar-looking bird was discovered and photographed by Blair Nikula at South Beach, Massachusetts on 5 June 2004 (Feustel and Feustel 2004). This is the sixth record for NY and first since 1985 (NYSARC 1985-18-A). For a full account see Feustel and Feustel (2004). See Fig. B, p. 48.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax)*
2004-16-A One, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, Benning Marsh, **Seneca,** 7 May (Robert G. Guthrie, ph R. Guthrie)
Two color photographs supported the identification as a Ruff and showed the bird in comparison to a Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). Although the observer felt that this was most likely a female, some committee members felt that the structure might better fit a basic-plumaged male. Ruff was formerly considered a scarce but regular migrant to NY, but for unknown reasons the species has become significantly rarer in the past 10 to 15 years. In recognition of this change, NYSARC now asks to review reports statewide (see NYSARC 2006).

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*)
2004-58-A One, Chestnut Road, Town of Newfane, **Niagara,** 2-8 Aug (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)
This mostly winter-plumaged Franklin's Gull was discovered on 1 August by Jim Pawlicki and remained until the 20th. Identification was established by written descriptions and by photographs taken by Willie D'Anna. The same area of flooded fields also hosted a good variety of shorebirds.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)
2004-47-A/B One basic, Robert Moses Power Plant, **Niagara,** 7 Nov-12 Dec (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)
In recent years, one or two California Gulls have wintered along the Niagara River, with most sightings coming from the rocks and jetties below the Robert Moses Power Plant as viewed from the Canadian side of the gorge. This adult followed the same pattern during its stay on the river.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)
2004-21-A/B Two, Tiana Beach Marsh, Shinnecock Bay, Hampton Bays, **Suffolk,** 31 May (Paul H. Gillen, Jr., Michael R. Wasilco)
This spring date is unusual, as Sandwich Terns are more typical in the latter half of the summer and early fall, often in association with tropical storms, but this sighting might presage a trend towards late spring occurrences as well (one benefit of global warming?).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
2004-30-A One, Mecox Bay, Southampton Town, **Suffolk,** 28 May (Shaibal S. Mitra)
Careful scrutiny of roosting terns at major tidal inlets along the south shore of Long Island during the late spring and early summer has yielded a number of Arctic Terns, typically subadult birds such as this well-described second summer individual. Small numbers of Arctic Terns nest in Massachusetts and more abundantly in Maine, and thus the scarcity in New York seems surprising but presumably reflects their tendency to migrate well offshore. Elsewhere in NYS the species is exceptionally rare, and all candidates should be rigorously documented.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)
2004-69-A One, Westport Marine, Westport, **Essex,** 3 Jul (Matthew Medler)
This is only the eighth record of Black Skimmer away from the immediate coast and is especially notable as it was not directly associated with a tropical storm. Discovered on 29 June, the skimmer was the first for Essex Co. and for Region 7. It remained until 3 July.

Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*)
2004-49-A/D One, Wells College, Cayuga Lake, Aurora, **Cayuga,** 30 Oct-29 Nov (Scott Haber, Mark Dettling, Jay McGowan, Curtis Marantz, ph J. McGowan)
Initially observed by Marcus Collins, Paul Hurtado and Erin Stephens. These excellent reports were supported by a number of color photos. The observers are to be commended for their careful discussions of the identification, in particular their appreciation of the difficulties in separating basic-plumaged Black Guillemot from its Pacific counterpart, Pigeon Guillemot (*C. columba*). This inland location is sufficiently removed from the Atlantic Ocean and St. Lawrence Seaway that Black Guillemot should not be considered the default

choice. Both Black and Pigeon Guillemots rarely wander significant distances inland from the coast, even after major winter storms, and Pacific species such as Ancient and Long-billed murrelets have occurred in upstate New York.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
2004-31-A/B One, Jones Beach West End, Hempstead, **Nassau,** 25 Aug (John J. Fritz, Joan Quinlan, ph J. Fritz)
Eurasian Collared-Dove was introduced to the Bahamas and has spread rapidly across the southern and western portions of the United States. There are a handful of reports from NYS, and this species was added to the NYS Checklist in 2002 (see NYSARC 2004). It is likely that some of these birds do originate from established populations to the south or west, whereas others may represent more recent escapes (or deliberate releases) from captivity. With this in mind, observers are reminded to document any sightings fully, paying careful attention to the possibility of escapes and other exotic doves.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)
2004-61-A/B One, Owl Woods, Braddock Bay, Greece, **Monroe,** 30 Dec (Jeanne Skelly, Robert G. Spahn, ph J. Skelly, R. Spahn)
2004-71-A/E One, Central Park, New York, **New York,** 19 Dec-13 Jan 2005 (Rex G. Stanford, Nikolas K. Haass, Scott Haber, Yolanda Garcia, Curtis Marantz, ph R. Stanford, sketch Y. Garcia)
2004-83-A One, Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, **Wilson,** 18 Dec (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)
The winter of 2004/05 was exceptional for this rarely seen visitor from Canada, and the clustering of dates suggests they arrived in the region at roughly the same time. The Wilson-Tuscarora owl was discovered by Brett Ewald, who found it roosting in the open during the Wilson-Lake Plains Christmas Bird Count. It was seen by many count participants but could not be relocated the next day. This constitutes the third record for Region 1. The Central Park individual was discovered the next day (19 December) by James Demes, who was participating in the Lower Hudson Christmas Bird Count. Initially thought to be the more likely Northern Saw-whet Owl (*A. acadicus*), he went back to the spot later that day, bringing along Peter Post and several other CBC participants, and they quickly re-identified the owl as a Boreal. It roosted in trees near the famous Tavern on the Green restaurant and was seen by an astonishing 1,000-1,500 people during its near month-long stay. Based on size, the bird was tentatively sexed as a female and was seen feeding on rats near the restaurant after nightfall! For a full account see Post (2005). The Braddock Bay owl was discovered by David Tetlow and seen by a number of lucky local birders before it also disappeared. There are around 25 prior records of Boreal Owl for NYS, mostly from the Adirondacks and Lake Ontario Plain (Yunick 1979, D'Anna 1998). The 2004/05 Boreal Owl incursion coincides with one of the largest recorded influxes of northern owls into the Midwest. In Minnesota, more than 400 Boreal Owls were recorded on a single day (reference in Post 2005).

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)
2004-43-A One immature, Larchmont, **Westchester,** 4-6 Nov (Andrew Towle, ph Robbie Towle)
This Calliope Hummingbird frequented a feeder at a private residence and was photographed by the homeowners. The Committee is grateful to Paul Lehman for his detailed analysis of the bird, not least because it was photographed at the very house he grew up in! In his comments, Paul drew attention to the white intrusion at the base of the bill that breaks the dark loral line. This subtle mark appears to be diagnostic for Calliope Hummingbird. Other important field marks included the buffy flanks, small size and single purple gorget feather. This is the first record for Westchester County and Region 9 and the third record for New York.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)
2004-56-A-F One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, **Monroe,** 3-6 Dec (Dominic Sherony, William W. Watson, Jeanne Skelly, Willie D'Anna, Jay McGowan, Robert G. Spahn, ph W. D'Anna, J. McGowan)
2004-66-A/B One-two, Prospect Park, **Kings,** 22 Nov-20 Dec (Rob Jett, Shaibal S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay, ph Steve Nanz, Sean Sime, R. Jett, S. Mitra)
The Hamlin Beach SP flycatcher was found by David Tetlow and subsequently enjoyed by many local birders during its four day stay; it also provided a first record for Region 2. In Prospect Park an Ash-throated was seen by a throng of birders and well photographed during a 29 day period commencing on 22 November. Interestingly, on 5 December two Ash-throateds were seen interacting together, and there were a few reports of two scattered birds in the park over the next week or so, with the latest of these last noted on 20 December. In addition, another Ash-throated, not sent to NYSARC for review, was reported from Coney Island on the Brooklyn Christmas Bird Count on 18 December.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)
2004-64-A One, Bauer Road, Eden, **Erie,** 28 Aug (Michael Zebehazy, stills from video M. Zebehazy)
Initially found by Bob Andrle. The Committee agreed with the observer's opinion that the bill of this bird seemed larger than expected. However, other aspects of the plumage, including the black tail with white outer edges, seemed most compatible with Western Kingbird, and the observer did mention that the bill size seemed within range of museum skins subsequently studied.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)
2004-37-A One, Nike Base, Hamburg, **Erie,** 7 Jun (Doug Happ)
This southern plains specialist is very rare in western NY, and this long-tailed, presumed adult individual represents only the third record for Region 1. Unfortunately, it could not be relocated during subsequent searches.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
2004-10-A/B One, Hosmer Road, Hartland, **Niagara,** 27 Mar (William W. Watson, Willie D'Anna)
The careful descriptions adequately ruled out Northern Shrike, the more likely shrike at this early spring date. Loggerhead Shrikes continue to decline in eastern North America and, although once a breeding species, are now barely annual in NY, with most records coming from the western and central portions of the state.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)
2004-74-A/B One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, **Monroe,** 4 Dec (Jay McGowan, Robert G. Spahn, ph J. McGowan)
Discovered by David Tetlow and Dominic Sherony whilst searching for the Ash-throated Flycatcher (2004-56-A/F), it was last reported on 12 December. White-eyed Vireo is a common breeder in southern NYS (Region 10 and coastal portion of Region 9) but is very rare statewide during the winter. See fig. C, p. 49.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)
2004-42-A/B Three, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, **Monroe,** 21 Oct (Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly)
2004-48-A/C Three, Stewart Park, Ithaca, **Tompkins,** 24 Nov (Mark Chao, Jay McGowan, Curtis Marantz, ph M. Chao, J. McGowan)
2004-52-A One, Captree State Park, **Suffolk,** 26 Nov (Shaibal S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay)
2004-78-A Four, Lake Road, **Wayne,** 23 Nov (Robert G. Spahn)
Cave swallow is ostensibly a Central and South American species that extended its range into the southern United States during the early 1900's. For unknown reasons, small but seemingly increasing numbers of birds move northwards in mid-to-late fall, sometimes in small flocks. Incursions seem to begin with a movement into the center of the continent, with the birds funneling eastward along the southern shorelines of Lakes Erie and Ontario before percolating down to the coast. The 2004 sightings fit this emerging pattern.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)
2004-53-A One, hatch year male, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk,** 20-28 Nov (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)
This cooperative bird was found by Mickey Cashman and enjoyed and extensively photographed by many local birders during its nine day stay. It frequented the western end of Parking Field 5, feeding in plain view along the grassy edges and even on the bare concrete of this spacious parking lot. See Fig. C, p. 49.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)
2004-70-A/B One Maidstone Park, East Hampton, **Suffolk,** 31 Dec-9 Jan 2005 (Arie Gilbert, Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)
Discovered on the Sagaponack Christmas Bird Count on 19 December by Bryan Pfeiffer. Although elusive at times, the solitaire remained in an expansive stand

of junipers and berry bushes at least until 18 January 2005 and was well appreciated by the many birders having the patience to track it down.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina)*
2004-85-A One first year female, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk,** 16 Jan (Robert J. Berlingeri)
Given the lack of foliage at this time of year and the very cold and windy conditions, it is perhaps not surprising that this Cape May Warbler was observed feeding on the ground rather than in a more typical arboreal context. The observer was initially puzzled by the fact that it appeared to be walking rather than hopping; however, it is known that Cape May Warblers will walk along branches, and this seemingly odd behavior may be a reflection of the desperate conditions. Another Cape May Warbler was reported on the same day from eastern Long Island, but further details were not submitted for review.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*)
2004-39-A/B One, Swan Pen, Stewart Park, Ithaca, **Tompkins,** 2 Nov (Jessie Ellis, Curtis Marantz)
Very carefully described by observers familiar with this subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler. Once considered a distinct species, "Audubon's" Warbler breeds in western Canada and the western US as well as northern Mexico, wintering in southern parts of its breeding range and into Central America; it is a quite rare visitor to NY.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)
2004-84-A/B One male, Cayuga Island, Niagara Falls, **Niagara** 17-18 Dec (Joan Hilts, Willie D'Anna, ph J. Hilts)
While watching Black-capped Chickadees in her backyard, Joan Hilts noticed an unfamiliar bird, which she had the foresight to photograph. Together with husband David, she consulted a field guide and correctly identified it as a Black-throated Gray Warbler. Realizing the significance, Joan contacted Jerry Farrell, who then alerted others. The Black-throated Gray Warbler remained in thick spruce trees until 19 December, providing a third record for Region 1. See Fig. C, p. 49.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)
2004-24-A Two, Allegany State Park, **Cattaraugus,** 28 Jun (William W. Watson)
2004-35-A One, Chestnut Ridge Park, Orchard Park, **Erie,** 11, 13, & 31 Jul (Mike Morgante)
2004-40-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau,** 24 Oct (Zubin Haghi, ph Z. Haghi)
2004-59-A One male, Fort Niagara State Park, Youngstown, **Niagara,** 16 May (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)
2004-76-A One pair, Allegany State Park. **Cattaraugus,** 5 Jun-18 Jul (Timothy Baird, ph T. Baird)
2004-82-A One, Durand Eastman Park, Rochester, **Monroe,** 1 May (Sandra Hazen)

The number of mid-summer reports is notable and perhaps reflects more comprehensive coverage as part of Breeding Bird Atlas Surveys. Tim Baird discovered a pair of nesting Yellow-throated Warblers near the Administration Building in the Red House Lake section of Allegany SP and witnessed one of the adults feeding a fledgling on 18 July. A pair also nested in Allegany SP in 1984. An unpaired male was on territory at Chestnut Ridge Park, some 40 miles to the north. In Region 10, Yellow-throated Warblers are more frequent in the early spring, so the mid-fall bird from Jones Beach SP is notable; it was discovered on 16 October and remained until 24 October. The frequency of appearances and distinctiveness of this species have prompted NYSARC to remove it from the review list (NYSARC 2006).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)
2004-19-A One, Wagner College, Staten Island, **Richmond** 20 May (Howard Fischer)
This Swainson's Warbler was heard singing for about 10 minutes before finally revealing itself to the patiently searching observer. The plumage was well described and ruled out other warblers; however, the song was not described, which would have enhanced the report, as written descriptions of a bird's song can be a key element for identification purposes.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*)
2004-38-A One, Central Park, New York, **New York,** 25-26 Oct (Lloyd Spitalnik, ph L. Spitalnik)
This is a late date for Mourning Warbler and raised the possibility of the very similar MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmiei*). The color photographs showed a number characters that confirmed the identification as Mourning, including the long undertail coverts, character of the eye ring (thin and slightly broken), yellow-tinged throat, and a couple of black feathers on the chest.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)
2004-63-A One, Setauket, **Suffolk,** 27 Dec (Shaibal S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay, ph S. Mitra)
Hugh McGuinness, Brian Kane, and Peter Scully, Jr. found this Western Tanager at Setauket Mill Pond during the Smithtown Christmas Bird Count. It was seen and nicely photographed by a number of count participants and others during the afternoon but not thereafter.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)
2004-57-A/D One, Town of Porter, **Niagara,** 15 Dec-12 Jan 2005 (William W. Watson, Jim Landau, Willie D'Anna, ph Jim Wojewodzki, W. D'Anna)
Discovered by Vicki Rothman on 15 December. Convincing written descriptions were supported by five confirming color photographs by Jim Wojewodzki and two by Willie D'Anna. See Fig. C, p. 49.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)
2004-34-A One, Amherst Bike Path, Amherst, **Erie,** 27 Sep (William W. Watson)
The description was indicative of the inland-nesting subspecies (*A. n. nelsoni*), and thus presumably represents a migrant en route to its coastal wintering grounds.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)
2004-50-A/B One, West Seneca, **Erie,** 14-17 May (Susan M. O'Donnell, Theodore P. Swiatek, ph Willie D'Anna)
Discovered by Theodore Swiatek visiting his backyard feeders, this handsome adult was nicely photographed during its 4-day stay, leaving no doubt as to its identification.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris)*
2004-26-A One male, Tifft Nature Preserve, **Erie,** 12 May (Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan)
A very fortuitous find of an adult male, this bird was observed for only a short while as it foraged along a trail with a couple of White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), providing Region 1 with its third record.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)
2004-28-A One female, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, **Richmond,** 9 Jul (Edward W. Johnson)
Originally found by Phil Brown on 8 July, this blackbird was nicely described as it fed with Eurasian Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) on the ground at the Cultural Center. Recent summer occurrences of this species in the New York City area represent an interesting new trend.

Hoary Redpoll (*Caduelis hornemanni*)
2004-2-A Nine individuals, Waterville, **Oneida,** 7 Jan-25 Mar (Jody Hildreth, ph J. Hildreth)
2004-3-A One, West Burlington, **Otsego,** 12-30 Jan (Tom Salo, ph T. Salo)
2004-5-A One, Gansevoort, **Warren,** 26 Jan -27 Feb (Barbara Putnam, ph B. Putnam)
2004-6-A One male, Fishers Landing, Orleans, **Jefferson,** 7 Jan (Nick Leone)
2004-8-A One, Route 79, **Broome,** 7 Jan (Dan Watkins)
2004-14-A One, West Burlington, **Otsego,** 21 Mar (Tom Salo)
Jody Hildreth provided a particularly detailed report on the nine individuals visiting his feeders in Waterville, Oneida. This included highly informative side-by-side photographs of Hoary Redpoll and Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*) in virtually identical poses. The Committee also commends Jody for correctly identifying a very pale male Common Redpoll that exhibited several of the field marks usually attributed to Hoary Redpoll. This serves to emphasize the similarities between the two species and the need for multiple positive field marks. See Hildreth (2004) for details. The other Hoary Redpolls were described

with varying degrees of detail but were found to be acceptable. Though Hoary Redpoll outbreaks are cyclical, a sufficient number of reports have been received to document the trend, and therefore Hoary Redpoll has been removed from the NYSARC Review List (NYSARC 2005).

2004 REPORTS ACCEPTED BUT ORIGINS UNCERTAIN OR UNNATURAL

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)
2004-51-A One, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca,** 11 Nov (William W. Watson)
2004-68-A Seven, Morristown, **St Lawrence,** 10 Oct (Robert E. Long, ph R. Long)
The exact status of Trumpeter Swan in NYS remains uncertain, but the continued reporting of these attractive swans is helping NYSARC keep track of the population both in terms of nesting events and the wanderings of marked birds. It is believed that all originate directly or indirectly from a combination of the Ontario introduction project and unauthorized releases by an aviculturist in Wayne Co. At this time, it is not clear that the NYS population is able to sustain itself without being supplemented by birds from additional introductions. For an excellent summary of Trumpeter Swans in NY and in the northeast, see Sherony and Bolsinger (2007). Also see NYSARC 2007 regarding our policy on addition of exotic species to the NYS checklist.

Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)
2004-4-A/B One adult gray phase, Sodus Point, Sodus, **Wayne,** 21 Feb-1 Mar (Barbara Herrgesell, Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony)
This adult female was discovered on 20 February by Mike Tetlow. Subsequent observers noted that it sported a metal US Fish & Wildlife Service band and after recapture was determined to be an individual that had been impounded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and later re-released into the wild. Although the specific details remain sketchy, the Committee was informed that this Gyrfalcon had been captured illegally in Jefferson Co. NY. Given the lack of substantive evidence for the location of the original capture and concerns that the subsequent behavior of the bird was unnaturally influenced by its exposure to humans, the Committee decided to place the reports in this qualified category. The identification is not questioned.

2004 REPORTS ACCEPTED IN REVISED FORM

Albatross species (*Thalassarche sp.*)
2004-25-A One, 1 mile SE Moriches Inlet, **Suffolk,** 23 May (Michael R. Wasilco)

Submitted as a Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*), this smaller albatross briefly visited a chartered fishing boat that was relatively close to shore. Unfortunately, the observer did not have optics on hand but was able to get clear general impressions of the bird with the naked eye. It is known that one or more Yellow-nosed Albatrosses have been occurring in the western Atlantic each year (perhaps the same bird(s)?), often being sighted from land or even, occasionally, overland. The description of the bill and white head is certainly consistent with Yellow-nosed Albatross; however, the Committee was concerned that other smaller albatross species, notably Black-browed Albatross (*T. melanophris*), could not be firmly excluded.

"Solitary" Vireo (*Vireo* [*solitarius*] *sp.*)
2004-62-A One, McIntyre Road, Fort Edward, **Washington,** 19 Dec (Barbara Putnam) Any "Solitary" Vireo observed in the winter months is worthy of very careful scrutiny and documentation. This bird was submitted as a Blue-headed Vireo (*V. solitarius*), the seemingly most likely candidate. After discussion, the Committee concluded that at such an extreme date other possibilities needed to be firmly ruled out. Although the Committee agreed that the description of plumage coloration adequately excluded Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*), the possibility of Cassin's Vireo (*V. cassinii*) could not be safely excluded, and it seems prudent to record this as a member of the "Solitary" Vireo species complex.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)
2004-27-A One, Allegany State Park, **Cattaraugus,** 21 Nov (Timothy Baird, ph T. Baird)
Originally submitted as a Dark-eyed Junco, possible "Oregon" Junco (*J. h. oreganus*). This very interesting bird was seen feeding with about 20 "Slate-colored" Juncos (*J. h. hyemalis*), and in the photos provided, showed an extensive blackish hood, clearly demarcated from the much lighter gray-brown back color and white underparts. The flanks were light gray, and thus various aspects of the color pattern did not conform to a typical "Oregon" Junco. After researching the Dark-eyed Junco complex, the Committee felt that this bird was best left as a Dark-eyed Junco of undetermined subspecific origins. See Fig. C, p. 49.

2004 REPORTS WITH NO DECISION RENDERED

Tufted Duck hybrid
2004-79-A One, Braddock Bay Marina, **Monroe,** 8 Apr (Robert Dobson)
This good report provided a complete description of a male *Aythya* duck that strongly resembled a Tufted Duck (*A. fuligula*) but was submitted as a Tufted Duck hybrid. Some aspects of its appearance suggested to the observer that it might be a hybrid of uncertain combination, with one possibility being Ring-necked Duck (*A. collaris*). Unfortunately, no photographs were obtained, and

the Committee felt that the description lacked sufficient detail to speculate further on its parentage.

Northern Parula x Cerulean Warbler hybrid
2004-33-A/B One hybrid, Vanderbilt National Historic Site, Hyde Park, **Dutchess,** 4, 6, & 21 Jun (Carena Pooth, Rodney Johnson)
A most interesting bird, showing plumage characters of both Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) and Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) and singing a predominately Parula song. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the attention to detail in these reports, including subtle distinctions in bill shape, tail length, overall proportions and other field marks. However, the Committee felt that without DNA evidence, it would not be possible to confirm the lineage of this bird, although the hypothesis seems correct. For a full description of this event, see Pooth and Johnson (2004).

2003 REPORTS ACCEPTED

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*)
2003-86-A One specimen, Cassadaga, **Chautauqua,** 2 Dec (Allen Benton, ph A. Benton)
This adult was shot by a hunter, Joseph McQuiggan, who, upon inspection, realized that its small size and the heavy concentration of warts around the base of the bill would make it a Ross's Goose. He called Allen Benton, who confirmed the identification and provided the Committee with a narrative of the event and a definitive photo of the head of the bird.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
2003-87-A One male, Oswego Harbor, **Oswego,** 14 Dec (Kevin McGann)
A good, complete description of a male in almost full breeding plumage, a sight that is becoming less common in NY for as yet to be understood reasons.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)
2003-90-A One, Cayuga Lake at East Varick, **Seneca,** 28 Apr (Jay McGowan, ph J. McGowan)
This Pacific Loon in complete or near-complete alternate plumage was studied for almost an hour and carefully photographed by Jay McGowan. Two or three Common Loons (*G. immer*) were also present, providing good perspective on size and structure.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*)
2003-91-A One adult, Myers Point Town Park, Lansing, **Tompkins,** 13 May (Jay McGowan, ph J. McGowan)

The excellent description and color photographs clearly establish the identification as a Franklin's Gull coming into alternate plumage. The partial cap suggests this bird might not be a full adult. Although a common migrant through the Midwest, Franklin's Gull is quite rare in NYS, especially over the past 10 years or so, and few sightings are as well documented as this bird.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)
2003-92-A One Grand Island, **Erie,** 6 Dec (Susan M. O'Donnell)
A decent description was received for this solitaire, enjoyed by participants on a birding visit to Grand Island. Also present there the following day, this solitaire provided Region 1 with its second record.

Hoary Redpoll (*Caduelis hornemanni*)
2003-88-A One male, Newcomb, **Essex,** 22 Dec (William Raup, ph W. Raup)
This reasonable description, missing a couple of key field marks but accompanied by two photographs illuminating some of the pertinent characters separating Hoary from Common Redpoll (*C. flammea*), was deemed, after discussion, to be acceptable by the Committee.

2002 REPORTS ACCEPTED

American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)
2002-95-A Two, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca,** 6 Oct (Jay McGowan, ph J. McGowan)
These two pelicans were nicely photographed both in flight and as they loafed and fed on a pond at the Refuge. This species has developed a pattern of regular appearances in the northern portion of NYS, and NYSARC review is now required only for downstate occurrences (NYSARC 2006).

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)
2002-96-A/B One, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca,** 2 Jun (Jay McGowan, Matthew Medler, ph Matt Victoria)
This King Rail was found on 2 June and remained until at least 24 June, usually requiring some patience before it would come into view in the heavily vegetated marsh it frequented. Photographs by Matt Victoria were included with report 2002-96-B.

Painting Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)
2002-93-A One male, SW shore of Seneca Lake, Watkins Glen, **Schuyler,** 14-16 May (Robert C. King, Jr.)
This unmistakable adult male, well photographed while visiting private feeders for a three day period, provided a first record for Schuyler Co.

2001 REPORT ACCEPTED

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)
2001-84-A One juvenile, Cutchogue, **Suffolk,** 23 Sep (Shaibal S. Mitra, Patricia Lindsay)
Although Ruff is the most frequently encountered Old World shorebird in eastern North America, it is a remarkable fact that only 1-2% are juveniles. By comparison, juveniles make up a higher percentage of sightings on the west coast and in Alaska. The prevalence of adults in both spring and fall on the east coast supports the theory that many Ruffs cross from West Africa to South America during their southbound migration and then travel north into the United States and Canada the following spring. West coast birds are presumed to have traveled directly from their Siberian breeding grounds and follow a more typical Asiatic-vagrant pattern of adults in mid/late-summer followed by juveniles in the fall. The recent decline in sightings of Ruff in the East has prompted the Committee to raise the species to full review status (NYSARC 2006), and thus this careful documentation of a juvenile is especially valuable.

1997 REPORT ACCEPTED

Band-rumped Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)
1997-74-A One, pelagic south-southeast of Montauk Point, 13 Jul (Paul A. Buckley, Richard R. Veit)
Submitted more than seven years after the event, this report is definitely a case of "better late than never." This storm-petrel was observed from a research ship stationed on the Continental Shelf to the east of Hudson Canyon (39° 46' 59.78" N, 71° 16' 59.81" W). The proximity to extremely deep water is appropriate for this cryptic species. The bird was not photographed, and the identification relies entirely on the written description provided, especially the comparisons to accompanying Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*). The observers noted that the majority of the Wilson's were in molt (appropriate for July) and that the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was in fresh plumage. Key features that were noted included its tendency towards shearwater-like glides, slightly larger size compared to other storm-petrels, tendency to hold its wings on a horizontal rather than in 'V' profile whilst pattering, relatively longer wings that swept back at the carpal, and apparent absence of yellow foot webs. Band-rumped Storm-Petrels breed on several islands in the eastern Atlantic, including the Azores, Canary Islands, Salvage Islands and Madeira, and range across warm waters of the central Atlantic into the Gulf Stream and Gulf of Mexico. Occurrence of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in NYS pelagic waters has long been predicted, most likely over very deep water and during the warmer months. Sightings are regular off North Carolina, with a handful of reports along the

Continental Shelf as far north as Massachusetts. Searching appropriate habitat in NYS waters is relatively difficult because of the distances involved. We hope that this first state record will encourage future dedicated pelagic excursions to range into appropriate areas and, with luck, to obtain photographic documentation of the species.

1990 REPORT ACCEPTED

"Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)
1990-38-A One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, **Monroe,** 24 Nov (Dominic Sherony)
This very interesting 1990 Dark-eyed Junco report, involving a race of what was previously considered a separate species, Gray-headed Junco, was originally submitted to the Genesee Ornithological Society's records committee but not to NYSARC. The original submission was more recently provided to NYSARC along with comparative notes added by the observer regarding his subsequent observations of "Gray-headed" Juncos in the southwestern US. Key field marks mentioned in the description of this bird, observed at Hamlin Beach in a flock of "Slate-colored" Juncos (*J. h. hyemalis*), included an all pinkish-white bill, a rich rusty brown back, and a uniform light gray coloration throughout the underparts, among others. The field marks seemed conclusive enough to the Committee to indicate this subspecies and rule out both a more southern race of "Gray-headed" Junco (*J. h. dorsalis*) and a possible hybrid with the former "Pink-sided" Junco (*J. h. mearnsi*), also lumped into the Dark-eyed Junco complex. This constitutes a new Junco form for NYS.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Some reports are not accepted by the NYSARC for various reasons. The most frequent is that the material submitted to the Committee was considered insufficient or too vague to properly document the occurrence and/or eliminate similar species. Simply stating the species and location of the bird(s) is almost without exception not enough for acceptance. Likewise, saying that it looked just like the illustration in the field guide is unlikely to be sufficient. Records are never rejected because the observer is unfamiliar to the Committee or has had records rejected in the past. Every effort is made to be as fair and objective as possible, but if the Committee is unsure about a submission, it tends to err on the conservative side, preferring not to accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All submissions, whether accepted or not, remain in the archive and can be re-evaluated if additional substantive material is presented. The Secretary or Chair can advise on whether the new information is sufficient to warrant

re-evaluation by the Committee. Descriptions prepared from memory weeks, months, or even years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. The Committee cannot overstate the importance of taking field notes of uncommon or rare birds while the bird is under study or, if this is not possible, immediately afterwards. It is very helpful to include a photocopy of your field notes with the report. This helps the Committee to know what was seen at the time of the observation, before field guides or other sources of information were consulted. Field sketches, no matter how crude, can be extremely useful in illustrating what you saw. Lastly, when writing a report, it is very important to explain how you settled on the identification. What did you see or hear that clinched the identification for you? This vital aspect of a good report is frequently omitted. Providing a detailed answer to this question will greatly enhance the report and further improve your birding skills.

2004 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*)
2004-46-A Three, Verona Marsh, Verona, **Oneida,** 14 Nov
2004-67-A Six, Batavia Water Treatment Plant, Batavia, **Genesee,** 27 Nov
Although these may well have been Cackling Geese, the descriptions were insufficient to firmly rule out the possibility that these were simply small Canada Geese *B. canadensis,* which are known to occur because of insufficient nutrition as chicks or fledglings.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)
2004-73-A One, Tri-cities Airport, **Broome,** 9 Sep
The report indicated a *Calidris*-type sandpiper in basic plumage, but the brief description did not adequately rule out Dunlin (*C. alpina*); females of the Hudson Bay subspecies *hudsonia* can appear very long-billed and might be confused with Curlew Sandpiper. In addition, key field marks to distinguish a Curlew, such as a white rump and longer legs, were not noted.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)
2004-15-A One 2nd winter, 6 ½ Station Road, Goshen, **Orange,** 10 Apr
Though the description was suggestive, some aspects of this immature gray-mantled gull did not fit with expectations for California Gull, including the width of the dark tail band, and other critical details were missing, such as eye and leg color and comparative shade of gray on the mantle. For difficult identifications of immature gulls at unexpected locations, a full suite of field marks and, ideally, a good series of photographs are really needed to support the identification.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)
2004-54-A/B One, Hamlin Beach State Park, Hamlin, **Monroe,** 2 Dec
In what must have been an extremely frustrating experience, two skilled observers studied this distant sleeping water bird for at least 45 minutes. The bird raised its head only once during the entire observation period, and the observers were forced to use deductive logic to narrow down the possibilities based on the few details they could see. Ultimately, the Committee was not convinced that this interesting bird could be identified with certainty as a Razorbill, a very unusual species away from a marine habitat. Some members felt that Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) might fit the description better, whereas others were not convinced this was necessarily an alcid. Stumbling blocks included the unexpectedly large size compared to Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), the relative shortness of the tail, and the fact that the bird's head was folded back rather than simply retracted in typical alcid style.

Northern Hawk Owl ((*Surnia ulula*)
2004-65-A One, Town of Richfield, **Otsego,** 21 Dec
Though a distinctive species, the description submitted was insufficient for this bird to be identified with any certainty.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)
2004-32-A One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens,** 1 Sep
This bird was observed very briefly and noted for its long dark tail. Unfortunately, the brief details do not firmly establish that this was a flycatcher rather than an exotic such as a male Pin-tailed Whydah (*Vidua macroura*). For instance, a small red spot noted on the dark head seems inconsistent with Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

Hoary Redpoll (*Caduelis hornemanni*)
2004-7-A One or two, Morris, **Otsego,** 11-24 Feb
Birders need to be aware that some Common Redpolls (*C. flammea*) are paler and will stand out in a flock. Thorough study and the observation of several field marks are usually needed to identify a Hoary Redpoll.

2003 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica)*
2003-89-A One, Lake Ontario at Derby Hill, Mexico, **Oswego,** 1 Dec
An intriguing report and appropriately labeled by the observer as "a possible Arctic Loon," realizing that it was not seen well enough to definitively rule out other loons and confirm a first NYS record. The loon was first seen swimming some 200-300 yards away. The conditions on the lake were very windy with estimated 6-8 foot waves! The observer moved to consult a field guide and call

the attention of another birder but on return was unable to relocate the bird. The true status of Arctic Loon on the Atlantic coast of North America is not well understood, as most reports turn out to be other loon species. For more information on this identification challenge see Birch and Lee (1997).

2002 REPORT NOT ACCEPTED

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
2002-17-C One, Ripley Hawkwatch, **Erie,** 11 Apr
This report was originally submitted to the Buffalo Ornithological Society and not forwarded to NYSARC in time to be reviewed together with the initial reports (2002-17-A/B). Collectively, the observers describe a very interesting pale *Buteo*-type hawk that was studied as it passed over the Ripley Hawkwatch but unfortunately was not photographed. The new report is a welcome addition to the archive but, after careful consideration, did not sway the Committee towards acceptance of this bird as the first state record. See NYSARC 2004 for further details and reasoning behind the decision.

CONTRIBUTORS

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SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE:

Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary),
Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Andrew Guthrie, Steve Kelling,
Shaibal S. Mitra and Dominic Sherony.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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"Progress and competition demand color." Seven years ago, Editor Manny Levine welcomed the new millennium with a new color cover for *The Kingbird* (About the New Color Cover. *Kingbird* 51: 504). Since that time, our organization and its journal have seen many changes. I've noticed that the number of us who habitually say "Federation" rather than "New York State Ornithological Association" is shrinking. *The Kingbird* itself has gone through changes in mailing, printing, production design, peer review, and editorship. Some of these changes have presented frustrating challenges. Brenda Best, Patricia Lindsay, Bill Ostrander, Bill Reeves, Bob Spahn, and many others can attest to the difficulties posed by such seemingly simple tasks as updating our postal status and mailing procedures. Mike Petersen has endured the irritation of seeing as many as five of his always punctual and outstanding Region 7 reports piling up in a sluggish publication queue. Today, the memory of sorting 700+ issues in my living room, then driving them from Long Island to a Catskills rendezvous with Jane Graves, is amusing, because, with patience, and the help of many, the publication schedule of *The Kingbird* is back on track.

Many of the changes mentioned above are inter-related. The change in our organization's name was motivated, in part, by recognition of the increasingly important role of individual memberships in all of our functions. In strictly economic terms, individual memberships represent a major portion of all revenues. In turn, *The Kingbird* represents both the primary reward for individual members, and the foremost expense of the organization.

Among *The Kingbird's* missions are "to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to document the ornithology of the State." The contributions of many expert reviewers over the last four years have greatly enhanced the journal's rigor, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the following reviewers for their efforts of behalf of articles published in recent volumes: Timothy H. Baird, Andrew Bernick, E. Thomas Brown, P. A. Buckley, Robert DeCandido, Andrew Farnsworth, Richard Guthrie, Paul Kerlinger, Daniel Klem, Patricia Lindsay, Jillian Liner, Kevin McGowan, Carolyn Mostello, Timothy O'Connell, Christopher Rimmer, Christopher Raithel, Dominic Sherony, Charles Smith, Robert Spahn, and Angus Wilson.

Among the many changes outlined above, *The Kingbird* has also, at last, caught up with one of Manny's long-held goals—color photographs. It is my sincere hope that *The Kingbird's* quality and appeal will continue to increase, and that this publication will continue to deserve the support of NYSOA's individual and institutional members.

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The warm, dry, and sunny conditions from summer continued in September. The average temperature for the month was 66.1°F, which was 4.6°F above normal. It was the tenth warmest September in the 136 years of records at Buffalo. Monthly precipitation at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport was 3.55", 0.29" below normal. A strong thunderstorm on the night of the 11th followed by a few days of cooler weather brought many migrants to the area. It was the warmest October in 60 years and third warmest on record. The average temperature was 58.8°F, 8.1°F above normal, and the monthly precipitation was 2.73", 0.46" below normal. Autumn foliage was at least two weeks behind normal. Drought conditions eased a little but continued over much of the Region. November was slightly cooler than normal and with some wet and windy weather, especially over the last ten days. The average temperature was 39.0°F, 1.2°F below normal. The monthly precipitation was 5.38", 1.46" above normal, with only 3.4" of snow, 7.6" below normal.

The warm September and October weather seemed to delay waterfowl migration, at least a little. However, there were two documented reports of **Cackling Geese** in September, making them the earliest ever in fall. There were several other Cackling Goose reports in October. Snow Geese migrate through Region 1 in very low numbers compared with the rest of the state, but only two reports this season were unusually few, especially considering that there were an equal number of reports of **Ross's Goose**. I found an immature Ross's Goose in a cut corn field with Canada Geese in Bennington on 14 October. Another immature, or possibly the same bird, was observed by many at or near Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary 10-12 November. The hybrid question was raised, as this bird showed a slight grin patch but seemingly within variation for Ross's Goose. As Snow and Ross's geese are close relatives, it is often difficult to discern what constitutes a hybrid. There would be little surprise if a feather on this bird was analyzed for DNA and found some distant Snow Goose ancestry, but how many generations must pass, if ever, before a bird is no longer considered a hybrid? It is worth noting that most Ross's Geese reported in this Region have accompanied Canada Geese and not Snow Geese. **Eared Grebes** made their annual appearance at Batavia WWTP, with up to four birds this fall, much to the delight of visiting birders attending the NYSOA annual meeting in Batavia.

The type E botulism outbreak among piscivorous waterbirds continued for the eighth consecutive year on Lake Erie. NYSDEC again closely monitored bird deaths along the shoreline by conducting counts of dead birds at 13 500-meter transects. A total of 437 dead birds were found during the Lake Erie transect surveys. Common Loon (406) again made up most of the carcass counts

on Lake Erie this year as it has been especially hard hit throughout the eight years of outbreak. Fortunately, very few dead birds were found this year along Lake Ontario in Niagara County. NYSDEC projected mortality of over 7,500 total birds, mostly Common Loons, due to botulism along the New York Lake Erie shoreline during this period.

Northern Gannet sightings have increased in recent years and are now of annual occurrence. There were two reports along Lake Ontario in November. There are usually more reports on Lake Ontario to the east and west of Region 1 because more lake watching is conducted in those areas, e.g., Hamlin Beach lake watch; therefore, gannets are likely underreported here.

Like Bald Eagles in recent years, Merlin sightings continue to increase and are now too numerous to include mention of all reports in spring and fall migration. Peregrine Falcon sightings are close to reaching this stage as well. Rough-legged Hawks were reported in average numbers in late October and November. An Osprey in Lancaster on 17 November was late.

Shorebirds were seen with regularity through early October at Tonawanda WMA and Oak Orchard WMA. The highlights from these locations, both on 4 September, included a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** and two **Long-billed Dowitchers** identified with a group of Short-billed Dowitchers. All three phalarope species were reported this fall. Many birders were able to observe a **Red-necked Phalarope** at close range on a small pond at a cemetery in Hamburg on 18-19 September.

Strong winds on 6 November brought two **Sabine's Gulls** and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** to the Niagara River in Buffalo. One of those juvenile Sabine's Gulls was found freshly dead in the Bird Island Pier parking lot. A **Black-headed Gull** was found along the Niagara River in Buffalo on 24 November and was relocated several times afterward. Birder coverage along the Niagara River in November seemed a little less than usual for 'gull season'. Reduced coverage may have been a factor in California Gull being unreported for the first time in 16 years. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were also very low for October; however, they increased throughout November. It's conceivable that the very mild October weather kept them north.

Passerine migration seemed to peak in mid-September. Warblers were especially numerous at Tifft Nature Preserve at that time. A count of 14 Brown Thrashers along the Ellicott Creek bike path in Amherst on 16 September was very much unexpected and evidence of a possible migration fallout. Despite mild October weather there were only a few obviously late lingering passerines, including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Baltimore Oriole, and a group of Bobolinks. This was the fourth consecutive fall season with a **White-eyed Vireo** sighting, which is an unusual trend.

It was best overall finch flight this decade. Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls were the most plentiful of the irruptive finches. While still lower than 'average' numbers just a decade or two ago, the number of **Evening Grosbeak** reports was exciting. They did not seem to stay more than a few days at most locations though. Multiple reports of **Pine Grosbeaks** and **Red Crossbills** were indicative of a good finch flight year. One **White-winged Crossbill** was

reported from a feeder in Wilson. **Bohemian Waxwings**, lumped here with the finches because of their irruptive nature and similar seasonal occurrence to most of the irruptive finches, were also present along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

The most notable rarities of the season were **two Rufous Hummingbirds** that frequented a feeder in Houghton, Allegany County. Larry Wilson spotted one hummingbird at his feeder on 10 & 11 October and along with Michael Raybuck identified it as a female Rufous. While hoping for this bird to appear during the BOS October Count on the 14th, they were surprised to see a different hummingbird appear that they identified as an immature male Rufous. Both birds appeared in subsequent days and dozens of birders were able to see one or the other or both. On 17 October, Erin Karnatz, a licensed bander, was able to capture and band the female and conclusively identify it as a hatch-year female Rufous. The male was last seen on 20 October and the female was last seen on the 21st.

The 72nd annual BOS October Count was held on the 14th and compiled by Mike Hamilton. The weather featured seasonable temperatures and cloudy skies. The count recorded 159 species with three first count records, Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, and Rufous Hummingbird; 15 record high counts; and no record low counts. Highest counts since inception in 1935 were recorded for: Canada Goose (24,650), Bald Eagle (18), Cooper's Hawk (31), unidentified jaegers (2), Lesser Black-backed Gull (4), Northern Saw-whet Owl (11), Red-bellied Woodpecker (204), Downy Woodpecker (406), Hairy Woodpecker (125), Pileated Woodpecker (28), Tufted Titmouse (167), Eastern Bluebird (428), Pine Warbler (9), Northern Cardinal (416), and Bobolink (20). With the exception of the jaegers and very late Bobolinks, these species have shown continued increases in recent years.

Other notable sightings not previously mentioned include: **Snowy Egret**, **Cattle Egret**, **Sandhill Crane,** and **Dickcissel**.

Special thanks go to Ken Roblee of NYSDEC for providing an update and data on the botulism outbreak. Weather information was obtained from National Weather Service monthly summaries at Buffalo-Niagara International Airport.

CONTRIBUTORS

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PHOTO GALLERY
FALL 2007 and NYSARC 2004

Figure A. Some birds at Montauk, Suffolk Co., during fall 2007. Clockwise from top: Cassin's Kingbird, 13 Oct, copyright S. S. Mitra; Pink-footed Goose, 23 Nov, copyright Lloyd Spitalnik; Clay-colored Sparrow, 22 Nov, copyright Sean Sime; Western Kingbird, 23 Nov, copyright Lloyd Spitalnik; Barnacle Goose, 18 Nov, copyright S. S. Mitra;. See pp. 2-12.

Figure B. Birds reviewed by the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2004. Top: Purple Gallinule, Prospect Park, Kings Co., 16 Oct, copyright Sean Sime. Bottom: Bar-tailed Godwit, Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co. 28 May, copyright Angus Wilson. See pp. 20-35.

Figure C. Birds reviewed by the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2004. Clockwise from top left: White-faced Ibis, Jamaica Bay, Queens Co., 16 May, copyright Angus Wilson; Mountain Bluebird, Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk Co., 22 Nov, copyright S. S. Mitra; Black-throated Gray Warbler, Niagara Falls, Niagara Co., 17 Dec, copyright Joan Hilts; White-eyed Vireo, Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe Co., 4 Dec, copyright Jay McGowan; Dark-eyed Junco, subspecies uncertain, Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus Co., 21 Nov, copyright Tim Baird; Lark Sparrow, Town of Porter, Niagara Co., 25 Dec, copyright Willie D'Anna. See pp. 20-35.

Figure D. Top: Barnacle Goose, Deep Hollow, Montauk, Suffolk Co., 18 Nov 2007, copyright S. S. Mitra. Bottom: Pink-footed Goose, Deep Hollow, Montauk, Suffolk Co., 22 Nov 2007, copyright Sean Sime. See pp. 2-12.

ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BOSOC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 14 Oct Count; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R NIAG; NR – Niagara R ERIE/NIAG; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE/ORLE; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tifft NP – Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 12 BOSOC; 2 blue INWR 10-11 Nov; only reports, fewer than usual.
ROSS'S GOOSE: Bennington WYOM BOSOC (MM!); SPNS 10-12 Nov (MZ!,MM!,JeL!, WW! mob), possibly same bird, *see intro.*
Cackling Goose: arr 2 Clarence ERIE 16 Sep (JP), earliest ever in fall; INWR 30 Sep, 5 Oct (WD!, MM!), on the early side; BWWTP BOSOC; 2,4 Somerset NIAG 27,28 Oct (WW,WD).
Brant: arr Olcott NIAG 10 Oct; 100, 150 FNSP 17,18 Oct (JM, EL); 2 Athol Springs ERIE 20 Oct; 36 Somerset NIAG 27 Oct; last FNSP 4-10 Nov.
Mute Swan: 2 Olcott NIAG 10 Oct; 2 Waterport ORLE 13 Oct; 6 WTSP 24 Oct, 6 Nov; 2 Cassadaga L CHAU 28 Oct; regular locations.
Tundra Swan: arr 2 OOWMA 10 Nov; 29 Dayton CATT 24 Nov; max 120 BeSP 29 Nov (DS).
Wood Duck: max 298 Alexander GENE 18 Sep, a high count; Grand I ERIE 29 Nov; SPNS 30 Nov; lingering.
Gadwall: 30 Athol Springs ERIE 20 Oct; max 57 INWR 5 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 153 INWR 10 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: max 76 BWWTP 10 Nov; 40 BWWTP 21 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: last 3 Alexander GENE 7 Nov (DB).
N. Shoveler: max 161, 242, 130 BWWTP 20 Sep, 30 Oct, 10 Nov; 18 Alexander GENE 7 Nov; 10 NF 24 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: arr 2 Olcott NIAG 10 Oct; max 11 FNSP 4 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 158, 69 GHSP 29 Sep, 28 Oct (WD, BP); 6 BOSOC, very low total.
Green-winged Teal: max 250 OOWMA 15 Sep; 85 GHSP 29 Sep; 75 Tifft NP 18 Nov.
Canvasback: arr 2 NF 26 Oct.
Redhead: arr 2 Buffalo ERIE 13 Oct; max 75 GHSP 17 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: 3 BWWTP 20 Sep, continued from summer; arr 2 INWR, BWWTP 5 Oct.
Greater Scaup: arr BWWTP 20 Sep; max 1000 NF 30 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr 7 GHSP 29 Sep; max 220 NF 26 Oct.
Surf Scoter: arr 3 Olcott NIAG 28 Sep; 3 GHSP 29 Sep; 25 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 18 Oct; max 37 GHSP 28 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: arr 16 GHSP 15 Sep; NF 28 Sep; 4 Cuba L ALLE 16 Oct (WW, JeL), uncommon inland.
Black Scoter: arr 8 GHSP 29 Sep; max 17 FMCSP 28 Oct; Buffalo NR 7,12 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 18 BOSOC; 1,2 BWWTP 1 Oct, 21 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 4 BOSOC; 200 Mayville CHAU 28 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr BOSOC.
Hooded Merganser: max 138 INWR 10 Nov.
Com. Merganser: 52 BWWTP 30 Oct, decent count for location.
Ruddy Duck: 45 Alexander GENE 16 Sep (DB); 82 BWWTP 30 Sep; 125,100 Dayton CATT 28 Oct, 24 Nov (JM); max 800 Mayville ChauL 30 Oct (JP,WW,JeL); 428 BWWTP 30 Oct; 5 Buffalo NR 12 Nov.

Com. Loon: arr 14 GHSP 15 Sep; max 135 GHSP 28 Oct; botulism toll continued, *see intro*.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 93 Mayville ChauL 28 Oct.
Horned Grebe: arr 9 BOSOC; max 171 Hamburg ERIE 3 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 9 GHSP 29 Sep (WD!), early; BOSOC; FNSP 21 Oct; 7 GHSP 3 Nov; Pt Breeze ORLE 17 Nov.
EARED GREBE: 2 BWWTP 1 Sep (WD); 4 BWWTP 6 Oct, 10 Nov (WW, mob), at least one remained thru 21 Nov (MZ), annual at this location.
N. GANNET: FMCSP 18 Nov (PY); Wilson NIAG 23 Nov (D&DS); now annual.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 765, 701 BuSP 6 Sep, 10 Oct (WW); 600 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 11 Sep.
Am. Bittern: no reports.
Great Egret: max 199, 218 TWMA 4,11 Sep (WW), following record count in late Aug; Tifft NP, BWWTP 5 Oct; 112 TWMA 10 Oct (WW), historical maximum for Oct; last BeSP 19 Oct.
SNOWY EGRET: Tifft NP 8-20 Sep (mob), continued from late summer, only 3rd Sep record for Reg.
CATTLE EGRET: Carlton ORLE 20 Oct (DT, JP), only report.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: ChauL 3,15 Sep, 22 Oct (TS), unusual location.
Turkey Vulture: last FNSP 24 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: FMCSP 3,8 Nov (JP,RS; DS); last Lancaster ERIE 17 Nov (RV,CO), late.
Bald Eagle: reported from numerous locations; 18 BOSOC; max 5 OOWMA 6 Oct.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 OOWMA 8 Sep; juv Tifft NP 13,16 Sep, unusual locations; Cuba L ALLE 4 Nov; Orchard Park ERIE 17,19 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr Centerville ALLE 20 Oct.
Merlin: reported from 13 locations throughout Reg; increasing; too numerous to list all fall reports.
Peregrine Falcon: im, ad TWMA 4,8 Sep; Tifft NP 22 Sep; WoBSP 26 Sep; NF 28 Sep; INWR 5 Oct; Orchard Park ERIE 8 Oct; Olcott NIAG 10 Oct; Amherst ERIE 24 Oct; FMCSP 4 Nov; Grand I ERIE 18 Nov; well reported.
Virginia Rail: TWMA 4 Sep; 3,1 OOWMA 4,23 Sep; only reports.
Sora: 4 OOWMA 4 Sep, only report.
Com. Moorhen: last BOSOC.
Am. Coot: max 850 Mayville ChauL 28 Oct; 79 DH 28 Oct; 550 TWMA 5 Nov.
SANDHILL CRANE: 2 Watts Flats CHAU 1 Sep (JP!); 5 TWMA 4,8 Sep (JP, AG); 5 OOWMA 23 Sep (WD), likely same as previous reports; only two previous Sep records for Reg; 10 BOSOC, record for count.
Black-bellied Plover: 3 Porter NIAG 11 Sep; 2 WoBSP 16 Sep; 2 TWMA 17 Sep; OOWMA 23 Sep; Buffalo NR 7 Oct; TWMA 13 Oct; last 2 BOSOC.
Am. Golden-Plover: 13 Clarence ERIE 15 Sep; 5 Barre ORLE 15 Sep; 16 Olcott NIAG 28 Sep; max 32 Porter NIAG 28 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 10 Tifft NP 13 Sep.
Killdeer: last 11 Attica Res WYOM, Machias CATT 11 Nov (KF).
Greater Yellowlegs: last 10 OOWMA 20 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last 40 BOSOC.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 TWMA 4 Sep; last 3 Tifft NP 13 Sep.
Sanderling: 2 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 8 Sep; 5 WoBSP 16 Sep; last 6 Buffalo NR 7 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 OOWMA 2 Sep (PY); TWMA 6 Sep (DB, ED); last TWMA 6 Oct (JP).
Baird's Sandpiper: WoBSP 2 Sep; OOWMA 2 Sep; max 4 TWMA 8 Sep (WD); Tifft NP 5,13 Sep; Barre ORLE 15 Sep; last Allegheny Res CATT 8 Oct (PY).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 16 OOWMA 15 Sep; 24 Wilson NIAG 24 Sep; Allegheny Res CATT 8 Oct; last 13 BOSOC.
Dunlin: arr 3 INWR 5 Oct; 9 Buffalo NR 7 Oct; max 230 GHSP 28 Oct (BP,WD); 200 FMCSP 28 Oct (PY); last Porter NIAG 10 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: 3 OOWMA 1 Sep; TWMA 4,6 Sep; last OOWMA 6 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: TWMA 4 Sep (JP), only report.
Short-billed Dowitcher: DH 1 Sep; max 11 OOWMA 4 Sep; 2 TWMA 6 Sep; 2,1 Tifft NP 15,22 Sep; only reports.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: 2 OOWMA 4 Sep (WW), distinguished from short-billeds in same group.
Wilson's Snipe: max 12 OOWMA 20 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: 3 Wethersfield WYOM 13 Sep (RR); Tifft NP 16 Sep; 2 BOSOC; last Cambria NIAG 10 Nov (JP).
Wilson's Phalarope: OOWMA 8 Sep (WD), only report.

Red-necked Phalarope: Tifft NP 15 Sep (HS,RS); Hamburg ERIE 18-19 Sep (RA, mob), well observed at small pond.
Red Phalarope: Buffalo NR 6 Nov (WW), only report.
Parasitic Jaeger: WoBSP 26 Sep (RA); GHSP 28 Oct (WD,BP); only reports.
jaeger sp.: GHSP 15 Sep (JP,WD); max 3 Athol Spring ERIE 22 Sep (JP), observed circling high and flying inland off L Erie; 2 L Ontario BOSOC; Athol Springs ERIE 27 Oct (PY); FMCSP 28 Oct (PY).
Little Gull: arr 2 Athol Springs ERIE 27 Oct; 2 FMCSP 28 Oct; GHSP 5 Nov; 2 max NR Nov.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: ad Buffalo NR 24, 29 Nov (JP,PY).
Bonaparte's Gull: surprisingly few during Oct wind events on L Erie; 3500 Buffalo NR 6 Nov (WW, JP).
Thayer's Gull: arr ad NPP 25 Nov, undocumented.
Iceland Gull: arr 2,3 NPP 18,24 Nov (WD).
Herring Gull: 1150 Rushford L ALLE 15 Oct (JP, WW), good count for inland.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: NFSP 20 Sep (JP); 4,2 Rushford L ALLE BOSOC, 16 Oct (LW), rare inland; 2 NFSP 26 Oct; Cuba L ALLE 4 Nov (KF); BeSP 22 Nov; 2 NPP 25 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: no reports.
Sabine's Gull: 2 juv Buffalo NR 6 Nov (JP, WW, DG), including one found deceased at Bird Island Pier during strong wind event.
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr juv Buffalo NR 6 Nov (JP, WW, WD).
Caspian Tern: last 2 Olcott NIAG 28 Sep.
Com. Tern: ChauL 28 Oct (JP, WW, JeL); last Buffalo NR 6 Nov.
Forster's Tern: Athol Springs ERIE 20 Oct, only report.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: BeSP 10 Sep (DS); last Tifft NP 16 Sep (MM).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: GHSP 15, 29 Sep (BP); last BOSOC.
Snowy Owl: arr Ellicott CHAU 8 Nov (MR, JB).
Short-eared Owl: arr 2 Porter NIAG 9 Nov (DS), traditional wintering location.
N. Saw-whet Owl: max 13 banded Wethersfield WYOM 12 Oct (DJ).
Com. Nighthawk: 2 Salamanca CATT 1 Sep; 4 max Tonawanda ERIE 3-18 Sep (PH); max 55 Buffalo ERIE 4 Sep (PY), good count for recent years; 7 AlSP 5 Sep (TB); 3 BeSP 6 Sep (JM); Amherst ERIE 16 Sep (JP).
Chimney Swift: last 2 BOSOC.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Alma ALLE 2 Oct.
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1-2 Houghton ALLE 10-21 Oct (LW, mob, NYSARC), hatch-year fem banded on 17 Oct (EK), other selasphorus hummingbird present 14-20 Oct was identified as an immature male Rufous.
Red-headed Woodpecker: BeSP 13 Sep; Hamburg ERIE 18 Sep; Olean CATT 6 Oct; 2 ORLE BOSOC; FMCSP 24 Nov; only reports.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Tifft NP 16 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: AmSP 4 Sep (RS); Amherst ERIE 9 Sep (JP); AlSP 16 Sep (TB); last Charlotte CHAU 23 Sep (FR).
E. Wood-Pewee: last Bethany GENE 13 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Wilson NIAG 9 Sep (WD,BP); Tifft NP 15 Sep; last Williamsville ERIE 21 Sep (RS).
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last 2 AlSP 16 Sep (TB).
Least Flycatcher: last AmSP 19 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last Grand I ERIE 11 Nov.
Gr. Crested Flycatcher: last Tifft NP 13 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 2 TWMA 8 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr Ellery CHAU 28 Oct.
White-eyed Vireo: Tifft NP 4 Oct (RS!), fourth consecutive fall report.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last INWR 8 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 9 Sep; last AmSP 16 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last Williamsville ERIE 21 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 6 reports Sep; last AmSP 30 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 22 AmSP 4 Sep (RS); last BeSP 10 Nov (NU, AH), late.
Com. Raven: 2 Jamestown Audubon CHAU 2 Nov (TS); 2 Hunter's Creek P ERIE 20 Nov (LC); 2 Springville ERIE 27 Nov (RR); only reports away from ALLE, CATT.
Horned Lark: max 45 Porter NIAG 21 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 41 BOSOC.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 6 NFSP 8 Nov (JP).
Bank Swallow: last TWMA 15 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last 7 BOSOC.

Carolina Wren: ad, 2 fl E Aurora ERIE 22 Sep (RR), late fledgling date; 16 BOSOC, big drop following last year's count maximum of 45.
House Wren: last Tifft NP 18 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr Wilson NIAG 9 Sep; max 7 Tifft NP 11 Oct; FMCSP 10 Nov.
Marsh Wren: last BuSP 21 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Wilson NIAG 24 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Williamsville ERIE, Wilson NIAG 9 Sep; WTSP 10 Nov; AmSP 17 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Tifft NP 28,30 Oct (DS; RS), late.
Veery: last Tifft NP 22 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Tifft NP 11 Sep; max 8 Tonawanda ERIE 26 Sep (PH), nocturnal calls; AmSP, Tonawanda ERIE 10 Oct; last 2 BOSOC.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Wilson NIAG 1 Sep; 55 Tonawanda ERIE 26 Sep (PH), nocturnal calls; last 2 BOSOC.
Hermit Thrush: arr Tifft NP 13 Sep; Porter NIAG 23 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last 2 BOSOC.
Gray Catbird: last Tifft NP 3 Nov.
N. Mockingbird: INWR 6 Oct; 2 Tifft NP 11,18 Oct; Houghton ALLE 15,16 Oct; less common in these locations.
Brown Thrasher: max 14 Amherst ERIE 16 Sep (JP), impressive count; last Tifft NP 30 Oct
Am. Pipit: arr OOWMA 15 Sep.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 32 FNSP 24 Nov (J&GK); 10 FNSP 26 Nov (VR).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: no reports.
Golden-winged Warbler: 1-2 AmSP 4 Sep (RS), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 8 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Tifft NP 15 Sep; last Alfred ALLE 25 Oct; 6 other reports.
Nashville Warbler: max 28 Tifft NP 15 Sep (RS); last BeSP 15 Oct.
N. Parula: 3 Tifft NP 15 Sep; last 2 Williamsville ERIE 27 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last 2 Tifft NP 16 Sep (MM).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 10 Tifft NP 15 Sep (RS).
Magnolia Warbler: max 22 Tifft NP 15 Sep (RS); last NFSP 7 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: max 5 AlSP 9 Sep (TB); last NFSP 7 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last BOSOC.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 150 Tifft NP 4 Oct; 2 Porter NIAG, INWR 10 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last Tifft NP 22 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last AmSP 24 Sep.
Pine Warbler: 9 BOSOC; last FNSP 25 Nov (DS).
Palm Warbler (*D.p. palmarum*): arr 2 Amherst ERIE 9 Sep; last AmSP 24 Oct.
Palm Warbler (*D.p. hypochrysea*): AmSP 24 Oct (RS,JP), rare.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 8 Tifft NP 13 Sep; last BOSOC.
Blackpoll Warbler: last BOSOC.
Black-and-white Warbler: last BOSOC.
Am. Redstart: last Williamsville ERIE 27 Sep.
Ovenbird: last Tifft NP 6 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: AmSP 3,5 Sep; Wilson NIAG 9 Sep; only reports.
Connecticut Warbler: no reports.
Mourning Warbler: last 2 AlSP 23 Sep (TB).
Com. Yellowthroat: last 2 BOSOC.
Hooded Warbler: last AlSP 28 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: 8 Wilson NIAG 9 Sep (WD,BP); max 12 Tifft NP 12 Sep (RS).
Canada Warbler: last Tifft NP 15 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 Amherst ERIE 30 Sep.
E. Towhee: arr Wilson NIAG 12 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 7 BOSOC.
Chipping Sparrow: last 4 BeSP 26 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: Alabama GENE 1 Sep; 2 BOSOC, only reports.
Fox Sparrow: arr Williamsville ERIE 12 Oct; max 5 Tonawanda ERIE 26 Oct; last Kennedy CHAU 24 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr DH 1 Sep; max 3 INWR 30 Sep; last 11 BOSOC.
White-throated Sparrow: arr Williamsville ERIE, Wilson NIAG 6 Sep.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr GHSP 29 Sep.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr Wilson NIAG 20 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr Porter NIAG 21 Sep (WD), early; 3 BWWTP 5 Oct; only reports.
Snow Bunting: arr 2 FNSP 28 Oct; max 255 FNSP 4 Nov; 75 BWWTP 12 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Lancaster ERIE BOSOC.
Indigo Bunting: Orchard Park ERIE 29 Sep; last Tifft NP 11 Oct.
DICKCISSEL: Lewiston NIAG 3 Nov (JP, RS), flyover, very rare.
Bobolink: last 20 BOSOC, group found near INWR, only third count record, unusually late.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 Tifft NP 13 Sep (JP, WW), slightly early; 50 TWMA 5 Oct; max 300 INWR 20 Oct (JP); last 30 Pembroke GENE 16 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: Tifft NP 22 Sep (RS); last Williamsville ERIE 26 Oct (RS), late.
Pine Grosbeak: arr 7 FNSP 22 Nov (WD); 6 FMCSP 24 Nov (WD); max 20 FNSP 25 Nov.
Purple Finch: 175 BOSOC; few reports, not widespread.
Red Crossbill: arr 2 Houghton ALLE 1 Nov (LW); Alexander GENE 12 Nov (KF); 2 Arcade WYOM 17 Nov (KF); FNSP 18 Nov (WD,BP).
White-winged Crossbill: arr Wilson NIAG 23, 27 Nov (BP).
Com. Redpoll: arr Wilson NIAG 30 Oct; max 120 FMCSP 18 Nov; 28 BWWTP 21 Nov; 65 FMCSP 24 Nov; 50 WTSP 24 Nov; 50 Orchard Park ERIE 24 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr Colden ERIE 9 Oct; 6 BOSOC; 25 Houghton ALLE 21 Oct; 14 Sheridan CHAU 26 Oct; 12 Scio ALLE 27 Oct; max 49 Colden ERIE 26 Nov (JiL); 18 Canaseraga ALLE 30 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 24 Sheridan CHAU 26 Oct (R&CB); 5-18 Houghton ALLE 27-31 Oct (LW); 4 N Collins ERIE 31 Oct; 5 Collins ERIE 1 Nov; 11 Eden ERIE 2 Nov (RA); GHSP 3 Nov; max 30 Frewsburg CATT 4 Nov (JF); 20 Amity ALLE 7 Nov (KD); 8 Wethersfield WYOM 10 Nov; Scio ALLE 23 Nov (MB); 20 Canaseraga ALLE 29 Nov (LP).

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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There was no significant weather event or trend that would provide some sort of punctuation to the fall. The first half was fairly warm and dry and the second half was fairly cool and wet. There just weren't any extremes that you could tie with any kind of bird event. September averaged 64.7°F, 3.5° above normal. Rainfall totaled 2.50", 0.95" below normal. October averaged 58.0°F, 7.6° above normal. Rainfall totaled 3.05", 0.45" above normal. November averaged 38.5°F, 1.4° below average. Rainfall totaled 4.01", 1.17" above normal. Snowfall totaled 1.7", 6.4" below average.

Anywhere in this report that monthly or seasonal totals are mentioned, efforts were made to avoid duplication.

For the second fall in a row, waterfowl numbers were lackluster. Only a few maxima occurred that are worth mentioning: 525 N. Pintail in Huron, 305 Green-winged Teal flying by Hamlin Beach, and 96 Ruddy Ducks on Long Pond in Greece. Cackling Goose numbers came down from the previous fall, with only six reported for the season. Brant put in a decent appearance, with three counts of over 1,000 birds. Scaup were again virtually absent from our Region; this is becoming a disturbing pattern. Both loon species were seen in below average numbers. A maximum of 819 Common Loons at Hamlin Beach

was an exception to the rule here this fall. A lone female King Eider flew by Hamlin Beach and a lone female Harlequin Duck flew by Braddock Bay. That was the beginning and the end of rarer waterfowl for the fall. Pied-billed Grebes were reported in above average numbers; double-digit counts were the norm in multiple locations.

Northern Gannets put in a great showing with **11** being reported. Far more of this species comes inland than most observers realize. There are probably more birds missed than duplicated. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were decent, with maxima of 625 at Braddock Bay and 500+ at Irondequoit Bay on 19 October. It was a good fall for waders. Great Egrets could be found anywhere in the Region and Green Herons appeared to have had a good nesting season. Glossy Ibis was a good find. Both that species and Cattle Egret used to be very regular in the fall. This fall's Cattle Egret was found just out of the Region into Region 1. The wader of the season was a **Little Blue Heron** found by Kevin Griffith. This bird was seen by many during its five-day stay, 12-16 October, a record late date for the Region.

A few Rough-legged Hawks were seen, but a major irruption did not appear imminent. Two N. Goshawks were a seasonal plus. 35 Merlin and 26 Peregrine Falcons were reported this fall. It is nice to see some species doing well with so many doing poorly.

Shorebird arrivals and departures averaged normal with few exceptions. For the third year in a row, a Solitary Sandpiper lingered into November. A Baird's Sandpiper at Irondequoit Bay on 4 October was on the late side. Five Purple Sandpipers at Hamlin Beach were noteworthy both due to the number and that they were slightly on the early side. Now rare in our Region any time of year, a **Red Knot** at Charlotte on 30 October was unfortunately a one-day wonder. Both Red-necked and Red phalarope were seen on Lake Ontario, with 5 Red Phalaropes in Huron being the highlight.

There were several rare gulls around this fall. The best of the best was a **Mew "Common" Gull** found by Bob Spahn at Irondequoit Bay. This first Regional record was fairly well described but never seen in flight or at close range. This species undoubtedly occurs in the northeastern U.S. more often than reported. There were six **Sabine's Gulls** reported including a single day count of four from Huron in early September. Eight Little Gulls and three Black-headed Gulls were around recent averages. Lesser-black Backed Gulls were noted in slightly higher numbers than normal, with eight reports for the season. It was a poor year for Black-legged Kittiwake, with only three seen, but an **adult** was at Long Pond for a very rare inland record. Dave Tetlow had a **Least Tern** fly past Hamlin Beach for a 3rd Regional record. Forster's Tern was reported in slightly above average numbers, with all other terns about normal. Jaegers sent a mixed message with 40 Parasitics and 11 unidentified birds seen providing decent totals, but very few of these were observed after mid-October. Surprisingly, only one Long-tailed Jaeger was sighted after 1 September and no Pomarine Jaeger was reported for the season.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Greece on 4 November seen by Dave and Grace Strong was definitely on the late side. One Snowy Owl arrived in November,

was hit by a car on Rt. 390, then rehabilitated and released in December. **Rufous Hummingbird**, an overdue bird for our Region, finally made an appearance. A beautiful adult male showed up at the feeders of Bill and Loretta Groell in W. Walworth for a first Regional record. It persisted until 1 December due primarily to the homeowners mounting a light over the feeder to keep it from icing up. A **Loggerhead Shrike** found by Dave Tetlow in Greece was a one-hour wonder. The bird was videotaped before it disappeared. There was quite a showing of N. Shrike throughout the Region. Fourteen reports for November were above average. **Cave Swallows** again made at least some news, with twenty birds being reported. All sightings were in the first half of November.

A lone Bicknell's Thrush was banded at Manitou. 38 Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded whose wing chords measured in the overlap range. Bohemian Waxwings arrived a little early. Hopefully with the abundant food crop they will put in a good showing in the upcoming season.

Warbler arrivals and departures were near normal, with the exception of a record late N. Waterthrush banded at Manitou on 24 October. Other late warblers were a Black-throated Blue at Hamlin Beach and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Geneseo. There were seven Orange-crowned Warblers reported for the season. Variety was good but overall abundance seemed low again.

Four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in one spot in Savannah must have made for an impressive sight. Multiples like this however are not without precedent in the fall. A Fox Sparrow banded at Manitou was a little early and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Irondequoit Bay was a little late. A Lapland Longspur in Parma on 1 September would have been record early except for one in the same field the previous day.

Shore Acres, a somewhat under-birded spot, provided an adult **Yellow-headed Blackbird** and two passing flocks of Evening Grosbeaks totaling 77 birds. Evening Grosbeaks moved through in moderate numbers this fall but had virtually vanished by the end of the period. Pine Grosbeaks were scattered about in small numbers but were hard to pin down. Abundant, widespread, everywhere; these were words used to describe Common Redpolls throughout the Region. There were several flocks reported of 100-150+. As expected, a couple of Hoary Redpolls were mixed in with a close flock at Irondequoit Bay. There were several other possible Hoarys seen that may very well have been so, but the identification requires close examination of plumage and structure often not possible with skittish flocks. A few Common "Greater" Redpolls were reported, this race is almost always present during exceptional invasion years and this year was no exception. Proximity again plays a role in positively identifying this subspecies. In total, the fall was interesting and provided tons of promise for the upcoming season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; CH – Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; DEP – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – T of Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Point, MONR; HU – T of Huron, WAYN; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; K – T of Kendall, ORLE; M – Manitou, MONR; NC – Northrup Creek, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T of Perinton, MONR; S – T of Savannah, WAYN; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; V – T of Victor, ONTA; W – T of Webster, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 1,3 HB,BB 8 Oct.
Cackling Goose: arr 1 HB 29 Sep; total 6 reports for season.
Brant: arr 50+ Bear Creek WAYN; max 1810 HU 12 Oct; 1656 HB 16 Oct; 1248 HB 25 Oct, decent counts.
Tundra Swan: arr 1 IB 29 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 13 HB 4 Sep; last 1 NC 20 Oct.
N. Pintail: max 525 HU 29 Sep; 435 HB 16 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 305 HB 25 Oct.
Canvasback: arr 6 HB 22 Oct.
Redhead: arr 80 HB 7 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 12 HB 30 Sep.
Greater Scaup: arr 2 HB 12 Sep.
King Eider: 1 female HB 6 Nov (RS, KG).
Harlequin Duck: 1 female BB 13 Nov (KG).
Surf Scoter: arr 7 HB 23 Sep; max 90 HU 29 Sep.
White-winged Scoter: max 663 HB 28 Nov, very low.
Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 29 Sep.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 HB 7 Oct; max 1260 HB 28 Oct.
Bufflehead: arr 3 HB 7 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 BB 14 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 96 Long Pond MONR 12 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: arr 3 HB 8 Oct.
Com. Loon: max 819 HB 24 Oct.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 22 SB 13 Nov; 19 BB 19 Oct.
N. Gannet: 11 reports HB to CH 5-30 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 625 BB 19 Oct; 500+ IB 19 Oct.
Great Egret: max 12 IB 3 Sep; last 1 BB 19 Oct.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1 Salmon Creek G 12-16 Oct (KG, mob), record late.
Green Heron: last 1 Salmon Creek G 15 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 1 G 18 Nov.
Glossy Ibis: 1 IB 3 Sep.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: 1 G 12 Nov; 1 H 12 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 K 19 Oct.
Merlin: 35 reports for season, several locations, increasing.
Peregrine Falcon: 26 reports for season, several locations, increasing.
Sandhill Crane: 2 S 21 Oct, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: last 1 BB 12 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: last 1 HB 31 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: last 1 S 31 Oct.
Killdeer: max 94 IB 3 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last 4 HP 13 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 HP 2 Nov (DT), late.
Whimbrel: 4 reports, several locations, 6-16 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: arr 1 IB 5-10 Oct; 1 NC 20-24 Oct.
Ruddy Turnstone: last 1 SB 11 Oct.
RED KNOT: 1 CH 30 Oct (RS), late.
Sanderling: last 1 CH 30 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1 IB 24 Oct.
Western Sandpiper: 1 S 8 Sep; 1 IB 25 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 200+ S 8 Sep; last 1 IB 24 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 Ogden 2 Sep; last 1 G 3 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 1 IB 4 Oct, late.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last 2 Shore Acres H 12 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 5 HB 28 Oct; 1 IB 24 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 1 HB 26 Sep; max 275 HB 28 Oct; last 16 BB 19 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: last 5 IB 10 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: last 1-2 IB 6-15 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 Round Pound G 28 Oct.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 HB 16 Sep; 3 HB 26 Oct.
Red Phalarope: 5 HU 28 Oct (TJ, et al).
Parasitic Jaeger: 21 reports sev loc Sep; 18 rep sev loc Oct; last 1 HB 10 Nov.
jaeger species: 11 rep sev loc Sep; 4 reports, sev loc, Oct.
Little Gull: 8 reports for season, several locations.
Black-headed Gull: 1 HB 21 Oct (WS, RS); 1 CH 28 Oct (KG, GL); 1 HB 5 Nov (WS, RS).
MEW "COMMON" GULL: 1 1st summer IB 9 Oct (RS!,DS!), 1st Regional record.
Ring-billed Gull: max 10,000+ HB 3 Sep.
Iceland Gull: arr 1 PE 23 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 8 reports for season, several locations.
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 HB 23 Nov.
SABINE'S GULL: 4 juv HU 10 Sep (CW, et al); 1 juv HB 23 Sep (AG); 1 juv HU 28 Sep (DW).
Black-legged Kittiwake: 2 imm HB 13 Nov; 1 **adult** Long Pond 23 Nov (DT).
Caspian Tern: last 2 IB 9 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 49 HB 4 Sep; last 1 HB 11 Oct.
Forster's Tern: 7 reports, several locations, 10-28 Sep; last 1 IB 8 Oct.
LEAST TERN: 1 HB 10 Sep (DT), 3rd Regional record.
Black Tern: 1 HB 9 Sep; last 1 HB 11 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 G 4 Nov (D & GS), late.
Snowy Owl: arr 1 G 8 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 Honeoye Falls 17 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last 2 IB 18 Sep; 4 W 18 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 750 Greigsville 12 Sep; last 1 HB 4 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 W 2 Oct.
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 ad male W. Walworth 10 Oct thru (B & LG), 1st Regional record.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last M 3 Oct.
Yellow- bellied Flycatcher: last 2 G 19 Sep.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last 1 M 14 Sep, banded.
Willow Flycatcher: last 2 HB 6 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1 M 28 Sep, banded.
E. Phoebe: last 1 Conesus Lake 11 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 S 17 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 BB 7 Sep.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 ad G 13 Sep (DT).
N. Shrike: arr 1 K 19 Oct; 14 reports for Nov, several locations.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 H 13 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last 1 Northampton Park MONR 15 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 Auburn Trail V 4 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 M 4 Sep, banded; max 6 Burroughs Audubon Nature Center MONR 12 Sep; last 1 M 29 Sep, banded.
Com. Raven: 1 Rush 30 Sep, increasing.
Purple Martin: last 2 HU 10 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 5 S 21 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 2 IB 11 Oct.
Bank Swallow: last 4 S 17 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 1 HB 3 Nov (DT); 3 HB 4 Nov (mob); 9 HP 4 Nov (DT, MD); 2 CH 6 Nov (DW); 1 HP 8 Nov (DT); 1 G 8 Nov (KG); 1 DEP 12 Nov (KG, GL); 2 HP 14 Nov (MD, DT).
House Wren: last 1 W 8 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 98 M 12 Oct, banded.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 154 M 12 Oct, banded; last 1 H 12 Nov.
Veery: last 1 M 20 Sep, banded.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 70 M 6-30 Sep, banded; last 1 M 9 Oct, banded.
Bicknell's Thrush: 1 M 17 Sep, banded.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: total 38 M Sep & Oct, banded.
Swainson's Thrush: max 150 M Sep, banded; last 1 Portage 17 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last 1 M 1 Oct, banded.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 10 HU 25 Oct (DW), early; 7 K 3 Nov (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep, banded.
Tennessee Warbler: arr 3 M 12 Sep, banded; last 1 Auburn Trail V 4 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 HB 5 Sep; 6 reports, several locations, 8-18 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last 1 M 14 Oct, banded.
N. Parula Warbler: arr 1 Auburn Trail V 5 Sep; last 1 M 6 Oct, banded.
Yellow Warbler: last 2 H 6 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 M 27 Sep, banded.
Magnolia Warbler: max 24 M 16 Sep, banded; last 1 M 7 Oct, banded.
Cape May Warbler: arr 1 M 8 Sep; last 2 M 15 Sep, banded.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 HB 8 Nov, late.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 M 28 Sep, banded.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep, banded.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 S 8 Sep; last 1 Brighton 15 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 W 29 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 M 16 Oct.
Cerulean Warbler: last 1 G 13 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 1 M 27 Sep, banded.
Am. Redstart: last 1 M 3 Oct, banded.
Ovenbird: last 1 M 5 Oct, banded.
N. Waterthrush: last 1 M 24 Oct (R & CM), banded, record late.
Connecticut Warbler: arr 1 M 3 Sep, banded; last 1 M 19 Sep, banded.
Mourning Warbler: last 1 M 6 Sep, banded.
Hooded Warbler: last 2 W 17 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last 1 M 7 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep, banded.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Geneseo 9 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 1 HU 29 Sep.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 M 12 Oct.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 4 S 14 Oct (MH, et al).
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 M 12 Oct, banded.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 M 5 Sep, banded; last 1 IB 19 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 G 27 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr 1 Parma 1 Sep (DT), record early when first heard previous day
Snow Bunting: arr 2 HB 15 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last 2 Northampton Park MONR 28 Sep.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 Shore Acres H 12 Nov (DT).
Baltimore Oriole: last 4 S 8 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: 14 reports, several locations, Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr 2 HB 29 Oct.
HOARY REDPOLL: arr 2 IB 17 Nov (RS).
Pine Siskin: arr 1 HP 7 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 1 Penfield 15 Sep (BMax), photo, early; max 77 Shore Acres H 12 Nov.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES
REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

[Reports for Regions 3 & 4 were not received in time for publication.]

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The season was very warm with near normal amounts of precipitation. In September the average temperature was 65.3°F, 4.0° above normal, with 3.20" of rain, 0.95" below normal. In October the temperature averaged 58.0°F, 7.9° above normal, with 4.02" of rain, 0.82" above average. The statistics for November were 37.9°, -1.8°, with 4.17" of precipitation, +0.40", with 6.8" of snow.

Across the Region a lot of species were reported for the season but numbers for many of those species were low. It's possible that the lack of strong cold fronts and the warm weather in the first two months allowed many birds to fly right over. In November, Snow Geese seemed to be lingering to our north, as no large flocks were noted until the end of the month. Unusual waterfowl were limited to one Greater White-fronted Goose and several well-described Cackling Geese. Dabbler migration was generally poor, attributable in some degree to the mild weather. There were few Canvasback and Redhead reports, and Sylvan Beach attracted a large flock of Common Goldeneye and scaup, which were too distant to separate by species. The small lakes in southern Madison County are an important migrant stopover, with good counts of Ring-necked Duck and Bufflehead reported this season. Scoter numbers were unimpressive at Derby Hill, but many White-winged and Black scoters staged on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario in November. Four sites reported at least 200 Hooded Merganser in November.

Long-tailed Ducks, Common Loons, and Red-necked Grebes suffered some mortality on Lake Ontario due to Type E botulism, but the problem seemed less severe than in 2006. Great Black-backed and Herring gulls were also affected and, going by numbers of dead found, much more so than Ringed-bill Gulls. Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, and many Common Moorhens were found in September at the Volney wetland, where noted in the summer. A mid-November Great Egret was record late for the Region. Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at Onondaga Lake in September; we assume that these birds are migrants since they are not reported in the breeding season.

Hawk flights were monitored at Bishop Road on north winds and Derby Hill on south winds. There was a new single day fall high count for Turkey Vulture, and three species, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Golden Eagle,

were all seen in higher than average numbers for the fall. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports reflect their increase as breeders. Few Broad-winged Hawks were reported, while migrant Rough-legged Hawks were observed at Bishop Road and a few were found at usual wintering locations.

There were two reports of Sandhill Crane, a bird over Derby Hill in September and a family group of four in November. As a result of wave action and low water on Lake Ontario a 25 acre sandbar was exposed at Sandy Pond providing great habitat for migrating shorebirds. An American Avocet spent a few days at Sandy Pond in November, many Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers were present, and the site was responsible for the only sightings of Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Stilt Sandpiper. Other uncommon shorebirds included a Whimbrel, two Red Phalaropes, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, the latter at the sod farm which they have been frequenting in recent years. A high count of eight Purple Sandpipers at Fair Haven were grounded by snow squalls. Delta Lake was drawn down so far that the productive mud flats dried out, leaving only less desirable habitat.

A total of 13 jaegers were seen at Derby Hill in September, including a Pomarine and an immature Long-tailed Jaeger, both on 12 September. The Long-tailed Jaeger was photographed and a report was submitted to NYSARC. Even with constant monitoring on favorable northwest winds, only two Parasitic Jaegers were sighted in October, and no jaegers were seen in November. Also at Derby Hill were a Little Gull, eight Black-legged Kittiwakes over the season, and a Northern Gannet in late November. A Sabine's Gull was found on Lake Ontario in Cayuga County about seven miles east of where several had been spotted in August in Wayne County. Both Glaucous Gull and Iceland gull had arrived by the end of the season. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low, and neither Forster's Tern nor Black Tern was reported. Two Barred Owls in unlikely spots may have been short range dispersal or longer range migrants. Snowy Owl was not reported.

A large number of Yellow-throated Vireos and all of the swallows were found at Howland Island WMA in early September; the annual Montezuma Muckrace brings a burst of reporting from there. Barn Swallows were not seen after 13 September, while 4,000 Tree Swallows at Sandy Pond in October were a surprise on a noisy opening day of the waterfowl season. Despite poor wild food crops, observers found many Red-breasted Nuthatches and Black-capped Chickadees in the Tug Hill and Adirondacks through the season, although Tom Salo reported the nuthatch to be scarce near Stillwater Reservoir.

The warbler migration was mixed. The 28 species found meant that most early migrants were seen in September, but numbers were generally very low. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Clay Marsh was very unusual, Orange-crowned Warbler was reported at two sites, and we had three Cape May Warblers. Sparrows trickled through during the very mild October with few high counts. Two Clay-colored Sparrows and three Lapland Longspurs were notable less common migrants.

Irruptive species were on the move by October, with Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks showing up followed

by Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll in November. Single Hoary Redpoll and White-winged Crossbill were reported. Red Crossbills were in the area, but with a sparse cone crop there was little food to hold them. By the end of November Pine Grosbeaks were coming to feeders in the Old Forge area, Pine Siskins were scarce, and Evening Grosbeaks were found mostly at traditional higher elevation sites.

A total of 244 species was reported for the season, a high number due to a few rarities and reports for most species that typically depart by early September. Highlights were Greater White-fronted Goose, **Northern Gannet,** Sandhill Crane, **American Avocet,** Sabine's Gull, **Long-tailed Jaeger,** Yellow-breasted Chat, and the winter finch invasion.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRH – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta Lake; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HI – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; NMP – Nine Mile Point, Scriba and New Haven; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SHF – Sky High Sod Farms, T Sullivan; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Beaver L 3 Nov (MR).
Snow Goose: arr 3 WM 29 Sep; max 3000 Old Forge 23 Nov & Waterville 30 Nov.
Brant: arr 110 LOL 29 Sep; max 2486 DH 7 Oct; 1 Beaver River 10 Nov.
Cackling Goose: BRH 29 Sep; BRH 9 Oct; Woodman Pd 25 Nov.
Canada Goose: first migrant wave 23 Sep; max 6500 BRH 9 Oct.
Mute Swan: max 5 FH 17 Nov.
Tundra Swan: max 26 Constantia 20 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: Fulton 6 Nov, no wing tag.
Wood Duck: max 200 HI 8 Sep.
Gadwall: max 31 FH 15 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 76 FH 15 Nov.
Am. Black Duck: max 54 DH 12 Oct.
Blue-winged Teal: max 12 GSC 6 Sep; last 25 Oct.
N. Shoveler: max 16 SPd 6 Oct; 14 FH 27 Nov.
N. Pintail: max 162 DH 28 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: max 62 DL 5 Oct.
Canvasback: 5 for the season at 3 sites.
Redhead: arr 4 FH 9 Oct; max 11 DH 1 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 387 s. Madison 25 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 Oswego 11 Sep; max 181 Skan L 3 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: max 64 SVB 20 Nov.
Surf Scoter: max 36 DH 12 Oct; Chitting L 1 Nov, unusual smaller lakes.
White-winged Scoter: max 240 SPd 12 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 75 SPd 12 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: max 830 DH 7 Nov.
Bufflehead: max 216 s. MADI 25 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 450 SVB 20 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 350 Otisco L 18 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 250 s. MADI 25 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 800 FH 20 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: max 120 Skan L 27 Oct.
Ruffed Grouse: good numbers Adks and Tug Hill.
Red-throated Loon: arr DH 14 Oct; max 5 FH 11 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 75 DH 1 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 24 FH 24 Oct.
Horned Grebe: arr OneiL 29 Sep; max 38 DH 28 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: arr & max 4 OnonL 24 Oct.
NORTHERN GANNET: DH 27 Nov, 7th regional record (KM).
Double-crested Cormorant: 1200 Oswego thru Sep.
Least Bittern: Volney 3 Sep.
Great Blue Heron: max 46 SPd 2 Sep.
Great Egret: SPd 13 Sep; Cicero 14 Sep; Otisco L 16 Sep; Fulton 15 Nov (BC), record late.
Green Heron: max 8 HI 8 Sep; last Otisco L 5 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 3 OnonL 15 Sep; OnonL 21 Sep.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture: max 673 BRH 25 Oct, record fall count.
Osprey: max 4 BRH 9 Oct; last BRH 10 Nov.
Bald Eagle: max 8 BRH 7 Oct.
N. Harrier: max 14 BRH 3 Nov.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 11 BRH 10 Nov.
Cooper's Hawk: max 7 BRH 10 Nov.
N. Goshawk: 10 reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 7 reports; max 2 BRH 10 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 4 per day to 29 Sep.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 224 BRH 25 Oct; 173 DH 21 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 4 BRH 25 Oct; max 14 BRH 10 Nov.
Golden Eagle: max 3 BRH 25 Oct; BRH 5, 10 Nov; Erieville 10 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: max 8 BRH 2 Sep.
Merlin: 18 reports.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 SPd 2 Oct; FH 17 Oct, tundrius subsp; 15 other reports.
Virginia Rail: max 4 Volney 3 Sep.
Sora: Volney 3 Sep.
Com. Moorhen: max 20 Volney 3 Sep; last 2 OnonL 29 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 184 FH 24 Oct.
Sandhill Crane: DH 3 Sep; 4 Brewerton 24 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: max 26 SPd 16 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: Solvay 11 Sep; max 6 SHF 7 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 50 SPd 29 Oct.
Killdeer: max 55 SHF 16 Sep.
AM. AVOCET: SPd 11-16 Nov, 4th regional record (MR, mob).
Spotted Sandpiper: last 2 WM 26 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: max and last 4 TR 29 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 15 SPd 5 Oct; last SPd 17 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 SPd 4 Oct; last 3 Eaton Res 10 Nov.
Whimbrel: Oswego 16 Sep.
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 SPd 7-16 Sep.
Red Knot: 3 SPd to 16 Sep.
Sanderling: max 48 SPd 2 Sep; last FH 6 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 18 SPd 13 Sep; last 2 SPd 20 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: max 45 SPd 2 Sep; last SPd 6 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 5 SPd 2 Sep; last SPd 4 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: max & last 2 SPd 4-6 Oct.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 10 SPd 4 Oct; last Eaton Res 10 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 2 FH 22 Nov; max 8 FH 23 Nov, in snow squalls.
Dunlin: arr FH 23 Sep; max 70 SPd 20 Oct; last 17 Nov FH.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 2 SPd 2 Sep; last SPd 25 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 2 SHF 5 Sep; max 3 Solvay 12 Sep; last SHF 15 Sep.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 2 SPd 2 Sep; last FH 23 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: max 4 Hamilton 22 Oct; last 3 Eaton Res 10 Nov.

Am. Woodcock: singles thru Oct.
Red Phalarope: DH 28 Oct; SPd 12 Nov.
Little Gull: DH 16 Nov, only report.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 88 LOL 28 Nov.
Ring-billed Gull: max 4400 DH 16 Nov.
Herring Gull: max 400 DH 6 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr DH 16 Nov; 3 reports.
Glaucous Gull: arr FH 23 Nov; 2 reports.
SABINE'S GULL: Sterling 13 Oct (DW, BP, JB).
Black-legged Kittiwake: max 3 DH 16 Nov; singles DH 15 Sep, 1, 7 Nov; 2 DH 28 Nov.
Caspian Tern: max 50 SPd 2 Sep; last LOL 7 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 60 SPd 5 Sep; last SPd 21 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: DH 12 Sep; Sterling 23 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: 4 DH 12 Sep; max 7 DH 28 Sep; 1 DH 4, 14 Oct.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: first-cycle DH 12 Sep, 4th record of live bird (DL ph, BP NYSARC).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 200 W Winfield 1 Oct, uncommonly high.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 HI 8 Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: WM 4 Sep; HI 8 Sep.
Barred Owl: downtown Syr 17 Oct & Liverpool 29 Oct, likely dispersals.
Short-eared Owl: Schroeppel 22 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: max 7 Fulton 9 Sep, LOW.
Chimney Swift: last DH 22 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 HI 8 Sep; last T Onondaga 9 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 SVB 6 Sep.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 DH 22 Oct; apparent migrants.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrants 1-2 per day.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Goose Pond HERK 29 Nov.
N. Flicker: max 31 SPd 13 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 10 HI 8 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 TR 1 Sep; last HI 8 Sep.
Acadian Flycatcher: HI 8 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last TR 16 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last Camden 11 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 HI 8 Sep; last TR 16 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last CM and W Winfield 5 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr TR 13 Oct; widespread reports.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 15 HI 8 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 3 per day, last 6 Nov.
Warbling Vireo: max 12 HI 8 Sep; last 17 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: 5 reports 12-28 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 15 HI 8 Sep; last DH 2 Oct.
Blue Jay: max 1644 Hastings 23 Sep.
Am. Crow: max 5940 BRH 25 Oct.
Fish Crow: 3 OnonL thru.
Com. Raven: max 18 Sterling 15 Oct; 13 Tug Hill 18 Nov.
Horned Lark: max 70 Mexico 10 Nov.
Purple Martin: last 3 DH 12 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 4000 SPd 6 Oct; last 3 BRH 3 Nov.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max & last 8 HI 8 Sep.
Bank Swallow: max & last 15 HI 8 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last 2 HI 8 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last WM 13 Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 108 Sterling 28 Sep, migrating along shore.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: still common in uplands thru Nov.
House Wren: last Dewitt 20 Oct.
Winter Wren: migrants scarce, to 3 per day.
Marsh Wren: 4 Volney 3 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 22 CM 15 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 19 SPd 15 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last HI 8 Sep.
E. Bluebird: max 25 TR 14 Oct.
Veery: last 10 HI 8 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: NMP 16 Sep, only report.
Swainson's Thrush: to 3 per day 19 Sep to 9 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 7/day Oct.
Wood Thrush: max 20 HI 8 Sep; last TR 25 Sep.
Gray Catbird: max 15 CM 24 Sep; last Hatch L 25 Nov.
Brown Thrasher: last Hastings 20 Sep.
Am. Pipit: max 94 BRH 7 Oct.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 36 DH 31 Oct; other reports 2 FH 13 Nov; 2 TR 15 Nov; 24 Redfield 18 Nov; 17 DH 24 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 148 DH 31 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last HI 8 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: 7 reports to 18 Sep.

Orange-crowned Warbler: TR 23 Sep; NMP 29 Sep.
Nashville Warbler: last NMP 29 Sep.
N. Parula: max 3 HI 8 Sep; last OnonL 16 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last 2 SPd 13 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 3 sites 16 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 9 HI 8 Sep; last CM 1 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 3 reports to 25 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1-2 per day; last DH 2 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 20 per day.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 3 per day; last LOL 2 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last Camillus 18 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last Oswego 11 Nov.
Palm Warbler: max 3 VB 17 Sep & TR 29 Sep; last W Winfield 15 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last HI 8 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: 4 reports to 13 Sep.
Cerulean Warbler: last HI 8 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: 6 reports to 16 Sep.
Am. Redstart: max & last 6 HI 8 Sep.
Ovenbird: last CM 24 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last HI 8 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: 3 HI 1 Sep; last HI 8 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 25 HI 1 Sep; last TR 13 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: last NMP 16 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: max 4 HI 8 Sep; last OnonL 16 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last HI 8 Sep.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: CM 1 Oct (DN).

TANAGER - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 15 HI 8 Sep; last Hastings 23 Sep.
E. Towhee: max 12 TR 23 Sep; last 2 CM 22 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr TR 24 Oct; max 29 Skan 11 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 42 Hastings 18 Sep.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 TR 29 Sep (GD).
Field Sparrow: max 6 Green Lakes SP 30 Sep.
Vesper Sparrow: TR 23 Sep; VB 14 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last 2 Richland 11 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr Hastings 11 Oct; max 7 CM 12 Nov.
Song Sparrow: max 70 WM 14 Sep.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr DL 17 Sep; max 4 VB 30 Sep; last CM 22 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: 9 CM 24 Sep; last CM 29 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 90 WM 14 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr SPd 22 Sep; max 20 TR 14 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 62 Skan 11 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Sterling 30 Sep; 1 BRH 3 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr SPd 15 Oct; max 230 BRH 3 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 17 HI 8 Sep; last Erieville 1 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last Elbridge 18 Oct.
Bobolink: max 3 BRH 3 Sep; last GSC 6 Sep.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 4530 BRH 25 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: max 33 BRH 9 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 CM 24 Sep; max 625 CM 22 Oct.
Com. Grackle: max 2450 BRH 25 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 500 Fayetteville 14 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: max 5 HI 1 Sep; last Durhamville 30 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr 2 Tioughnioga WMA 5 Nov; max 89 n. OSWE 24 Nov; widespread invasion.
Purple Finch: max 54 WM 8 Oct; to 3 per day Nov, scattered.
Red Crossbill: 20 Fabius 5, 10 Nov; 2 Wilmurt 11 Nov; Orwell 18 Nov; 12 Manlius 23 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: Clinton 29 Oct, only report.
Com. Redpoll: arr Durhamville 2 Nov; max 140 SPd 17 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: New Hartford 24 Nov (MY).
Pine Siskin: arr 5 SPd 6 Oct; max 133 DH 22 Oct; most departed by 15 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: max 560 DH 31 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 17 DH 4 Oct; widespread 20-30 per day after 1 Nov.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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September was warm and dry, October was very warm and wet, and both temperature and precipitation were near normal during November. The warmest day of the season was 7 September, with the temperature reaching 94°F in Gouverneur (weather data for Watertown were incomplete). The mean temperature for September was 74.9°F, which is 3.5° above normal, and the warm weather continued through October, with a mean temperature of 64.3°, 6.6° above normal. November's mean of 43.2° was 1° below normal. The dry conditions that persisted through the summer continued into September, as the 2.5" of rain that fell in the month was 1.7" below normal. The rest of the season was modestly wetter than normal, with October and November receiving 4.7" and 3.9" of precipitation, respectively, which adds up to 1.6" more than normal for the two months combined. The first frost of the year in many lowland areas was on 23 October, and light snow and freezing rain fell on several days during the latter half of November.

Waterfowl diversity was reasonably high, but no rarities were reported. I received very few reports of Snow Goose or Brant, but Tundra Swans were present in good numbers along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Numbers of American Wigeon and American Coots were higher than have been reported in the Region during any fall since 1998, with the two species conspicuous at Upper and Lower Lakes and Wilson Hill throughout October and November. Typical concentrations of Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Greater Scaup were noted from traditional fall staging areas. Ring-necked Duck at Upper and Lower Lakes exhibited two peaks in abundance of around 900 individuals, in early and late October, with many of the early individuals apparently departing mid-month; this compares with last year when numbers built steadily all month to a late October high of 2000 birds. Scoters were well reported, with all three species occurring on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Pied-billed Grebe was especially abundant at Upper and Lower Lakes, with more than 150 present in late September and early October.

The Type E Botulism outbreak continues to kill large numbers of waterfowl and waterbirds in eastern Lake Ontario. DEC personnel conducting transects along the Jefferson County shoreline collected 311 carcasses between 10 October and 11 November, of which two species predominated: Long-tailed Duck accounted for 40.8% and Common Loon 31.8% of the carcasses collected. Red-necked Grebe, the third most numerous species in the sample, accounted for 7.4% of carcasses collected, with 11 other species making up the remainder of the sample. These surveys cover a tiny fraction of the total shoreline in Region 6, and the total number of birds dying during this outbreak must be in the tens of thousands.

The raptor migration through Jefferson County was well described, thanks in part to surveys conducted by Gerry Smith and Tom Carrolan to document the potential impact of wind power development in the northern part of the county. On 16 October Tom Carrolan observed what he referred to as a "classic cul-de-sac flight" on Point Peninsula, where birds congregated at the southern tip of the peninsula and reversed direction to avoid flying over water. During two hours he counted 226 Turkey Vulture, 8 Northern Harrier, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4 Cooper's Hawk, 4 Red-shouldered Hawk, 64 Red-tailed Hawk, and 1 Merlin. More general highlights from the raptor migration included 3 Golden Eagle, 11 Merlin, and 3 Peregrine Falcon. Rough-legged Hawk arrived 29 October, which is relatively late but within the normal arrival window. Numbers of Rough-legged and Red-tailed hawks present by late November were much lower than during the same period in 2006. Several observers suggested that small mammal populations in the area crashed during the late summer or fall, providing one potential reason for the lower buteo numbers this year.

The Great Egret roost at Winthrop Swamp in Stockholm, first reported by Robert Scranton in August, swelled to 126 birds in mid-September and then gradually diminished over the subsequent month. Regionally high numbers of Great Egrets had been seen here in past years, but the numbers observed this fall were at least twice the highest previous total for Region 6. Up to a dozen Black-crowned Night-Herons were also present at this roost through the fall.

Low water levels along the Lake Ontario shoreline seem to have encouraged birders to spend more time looking at shorebirds than has been the case in recent years, and the total number of species reported was higher than during any fall since 1998. Numbers of individuals were generally modest, but several species that are infrequently reported in Region 6 were observed, including American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, and Red Phalarope. Whether the increase in reports was a result of an actual increase in birds or from increased observer effort remains unclear, but I suspect a little of both. Eugene Nichols, an avid angler and casual birder, reported seeing many hundreds and probably more than 1000 shorebirds using islands and shoals exposed by low water off the Point Peninsula shoreline in early September; he was fishing by boat and did not have optics with which to identify these birds to species. These numbers dwarf anything reported in many years and suggest that much of the Region 6 shorebird migration occurs along island locations that birders virtually never visit.

A photo of a Snowy Owl reportedly taken in Lewis County during November appeared on local interest Internet sites, and if the date and location are accurate was the only Snowy Owl observed in the Region. On 25 November I saw a Barred Owl active during the middle of the day, perhaps indicative of a bird having trouble finding food. By the end of the reporting season small numbers of Short-eared Owl were present at traditional wintering areas in Cape Vincent, but Gerry Smith noted that unlike in past years, nearly all of the hayfields in this area were mowed late in the growing season or plowed, and roosting habitat was unusually scarce.

Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from Cape Vincent, one of the few remaining known nesting sites in the Region, and Robert Wehle State Park in Henderson, a relatively new park that has received little attention from birders since it was established in 2004. Thomas Brodie Johnson and several fellow birders visiting from the Ithaca area reported the woodpecker in the park, two Red Phalaropes flying over Lake Ontario from the park's bluffs, and a Parasitic Jaeger from a nearby location on Stony Point. Late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported in Madrid and Watertown, the latter regularly coming to a feeder through November.

The passerine migration progressed relatively steadily through September and October, with several modest pulses but no especially large movements noted. The first Northern Shrike was reported on 15 October, and shrikes were present in good numbers by the end of November. Philadelphia Vireo was well reported, with 1-2 seen daily on Fort Drum and at Indian Creek Nature Center during the first two weeks of September. Tufted Titmouse seemed unusually conspicuous during late October and early November. As is often the case, few thrushes were observed, but those who listened for nocturnal migrants heard large numbers of thrushes passing overhead on several nights in late September.

The 24 species of warbler reported compares favorably with reports from past years. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Indian Creek Nature Center on 23 September was the first reported in Region 6 in several years and is very rare in St. Lawrence County. Another highlight was an Orange-crowned Warbler observed at the same location on 2 October. As usual for the fall season, I received very few reports of warblers from other observers, and suspect that few in Region 6 spend much time looking at fall songbirds.

It was another interesting year for finches and other irruptive passerines. An early Bohemian Waxwing seen on Fort Drum with a flock of Rusty Blackbirds 24 October presaged the eventual invasion of the Region by this species, and Bohemians were observed in a number of locations throughout November. Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were also widespread by the end of the reporting period, the grosbeaks in generally modest numbers but redpolls in flocks of up to 400. On 20 November at least one **Hoary Redpoll** was in a large flock of Commons on Fort Drum. During much of the fall Evening Grosbeaks seemed to be everywhere, but while still present in good numbers in late November, were mostly absent from valley locations. Purple Finches were ubiquitous in September and October, but virtually absent by November, and Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches likewise were scarce by the end of the reporting period. The departure of these finches and the absence of any crossbills was widely attributed to a poor cone crop.

A total of 210 species was reported during the fall, a higher total than usual for this Region thanks to relatively widespread coverage albeit by few observers. This species total and the improvement in coverage it reflects is the true highlight of the season. A number of species certainly passed through Region 6 without detection because, for instance, few observers devoted any time to watching Lake Ontario, but hopefully this fall's results are part of a trend toward more thorough coverage.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRB – Black River Bay; CV – Cape Vincent; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, Canton; KC – Kelsey Creek, Watertown; Lpd – Leonard Pond trail, Colton; LPt – Leishman Point, Waddington; MM – Massawepie Mire, Piercefield and Colton; MP – Montario Point, Ellisburg; PilPt – Pillar Point; PRWMA – Perch River WMA; PtPen – Pt. Peninsula; RGWSP – Robert G. Wehle SP; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; StPt – Stony Point; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WBSP – Westcott Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WS – Winthrop Swamp, Stockholm.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr Canton 14 Oct; max 300 Watertown 18 Nov; few reports.
Brant: max 40 SBSP 16 Nov; few reports.
Tundra Swan: max 76 PtPen 25 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad 3 y PRWMA 27 Sep.
Wood Duck: last 2 FD 8 Nov.
Gadwall: max 78 WHWMA 9 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 290 WHWMA 28 Oct.
Am. Black Duck: max 400 BRB 28 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: max 61 ULLWMA 12 Oct; last 2 ULLWMA 28 Oct.
N. Shoveler: PRWMA 27 Sep; PtPen 22 Oct; only reports.
N. Pintail: max 11 ICNC 3 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 53 FD 8 Nov.
Canvasback: WHWMA 28 Oct , 4 Nov.
Redhead: max 560 WHWMA 28 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: 8 broods ULLWMA 7 Sep; 880 ULLWMA 6 Oct; 975 ULLWMA 28 Oct; 720 WHWMA 4 Nov.
Greater Scaup: 7000-9000 distant scaup believed to be primarily this sp BRB 21-28 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: 4 ULLWMA 6 Oct.
Surf Scoter: 4 arr ED 5 Oct; max 10 LPt 4 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: arr StPt 16 Sep; 23 SLR Waddington 23 Oct; max 200 MP 12 Nov.
Black Scoter: max 15 MP 31 Oct; LPt 4 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr ICNC 28 Oct; 127 carcasses collected L Ontario shore 10 Oct thru 11 Nov.
Bufflehead: 190 PtPen 12 Nov; max 200 PilPt 21 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr SBSP 31 Oct; max 200 PilPt 21 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 312 WHWMA 18 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 1000 Coles Creek SP 30 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: 16 arr ULLWMA 8 Oct; max 60 WBSP 12 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: MP 28 Nov, only report.
Com. Loon: max 12 Barnhart Island SLR 9 Nov; 99 carcasses collected L Ontario shoreline 10 Oct thru 11 Nov, Type E Botulism suspected.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 150+ ULLWMA 12 Oct.
Horned Grebe: max 11 PilPt 12 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: StPt 16 Sep; Chaumont Bay 24 Nov; 23 carcasses collected L Ontario shore 10 Oct thru 11 Nov.
Am. Bittern: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Great Egret: max 126 WS 21 Sep, high count (RS); 6 still at WS roost 18 Oct.
Green Heron: last 2 ICNC 2 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 12 WS 12 Sep.
Turkey Vulture: last PtPen 8 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last ICNC 30 Sep.
N. Harrier: 15-20 per day CV thru early Nov; max 26 CV 15 Oct; virtually absent by late Nov.
N. Goshawk: ad Robert Moses SP 18 Nov; FD 20 Nov; flying over SLR Waddington 30 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 4 PtPen 16 Oct; few reports.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 64 PtPen 16 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr FD 29 Oct; max 15 CV 18 Nov; immatures scarce.
Golden Eagle: ad Potsdam 18 Oct (JC); ad WHWMA 17 Nov (MS); imm Potsdam 20 Nov (JC).
Am. Kestrel: 25-35 per day CV thru mid Sep; scarce by Nov.
Merlin: 11 reports.
Peregrine Falcon: Gouverneur 26 Sep; FD 1 Oct; ULLWMA 12 Oct.
Com. Moorhen: last WHWMA 29 Sep.
Am. Coot: max 136 WHWMA 4 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: max 12 ED 5 Oct.
Am. Golden-Plover: ICNC 30 Sep; ED 5 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: max 2 ED 5 Oct.
Killdeer: max 52 ED 5 Oct; last LPt 9 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 ED 12 Sep; last FD & PtPen 8 Nov.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 11 ED 5 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 ICNC 7 Sep & FD 20 Sep; last ICNC 12 Oct.
Whimbrel: Sackets Harbor 3 Oct (GM, photo!).
Sanderling: max 90 ED 5 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 7 PilPt 18 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: max 7 ED 20 Sep.
Baird's Sandpiper: ED 5 Oct (JB).
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 4 ED 5 Oct.
Dunlin: max 8 PilPt 18 Oct.
Red Phalarope: 2 RGWSP 16 Sep (TBJ).
Parasitic Jaeger: StPt 16 Sep (TBJ).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 91 PtPen 25 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last ED 12 Sep.
Com. Tern: last ED 12 Sep.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: photo in local media reputedly from Castorland 15 Nov, only report.
Barred Owl: 1 hunting mid-day Madrid 25 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr CV 10 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last Gouverneur 5 Sep.
Chimney Swift: last Ellisburg 8 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last ICNC 21 Sep.
Belted Kingfisher: scarce after 25 Oct.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 CV 1 Sep; imm RGWSP 16 Sep.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Sandy Creek Valley N of Tug Hill, new location.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: KC feeder 16 Oct thru (RB); Madrid 18 Nov (JB).
Black-backed Woodpecker: MM 17 Sep; ad m S end Massawepie L 7 Oct; LPd 5 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: ICNC 30 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: RGWSP 16 Sep, only report.
Least Flycatcher: last FD 19 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last FD & KC 24 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last Canton 14 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr CV 15 Oct; 1-3 per day throughout Region Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last FD 19 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max and last 14 FD 10 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last FD 19 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 2 ICNC 1 & 7 Sep; 1 each on 6 days FD 4 thru 13 Sep; 1 ICNC 9 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last ICNC 12 Oct.
Horned Lark: 30 Hounsfield 28 Nov.
Tree Swallow: last 70 ULLWMA 12 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last ICNC 1 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last ICNC 9 Sep.
Tufted Titmouse: reports from 6 locations where previously unreported JEFF and STLA 17 Oct - 12 Nov.
Carolina Wren: Potsdam 30 Oct.
House Wren: last FD 4 Oct.
Winter Wren: last ICNC 12 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr ICNC 23 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 13 Sep; max 112 FD 10 Oct; last FD 8 Nov.
E. Bluebird: max 33 FD 10 Sep; groups 4-10 still present throughout Region 30 Nov.
Veery: last ICNC 7 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: ICNC 21 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: ICNC 7 Sep; FD 13 & 18 Sep, 3 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: last FD 24 Oct.
Gray Catbird: last KC 14 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: last ICNC 28 Sep.

Am. Pipit: arr ICNC 30 Sep; max 50+ Rutland 15 Oct; last FD 8 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr FD 24 Oct, early (JB); widespread reports of small flocks 8 Nov thru; max 180+ Potsdam 24 Nov (JC).
Cedar Waxwing: max 140 FD 26 Nov.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: ICNC 1, 7 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: ICNC 2 Oct (JB).
Nashville Warbler: last ICNC 28 Sep.
N. Parula: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last ICNC 7 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last ICNC & KC 27 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last ED 5 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: KC 27 Sep, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last ED 5 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 117 FD 10 Oct; last ICNC 3 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last KC 12 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last KC 27 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last FD 4 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: FD 27 Sep, only report.
"Western" Palm Warbler: max 19 FD 13 Sep; 18 FD 24 Sep; last FD 10 Oct.
"Yellow" Palm Warbler: "abundant" MM 29 Sep; 2 S end Massawepie L 7 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last FD 17 Oct, late.
Blackpoll Warbler: last FD 4 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last FD 12 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last FD 27 Sep.
Ovenbird: last ICNC 28 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last CV & ICNC 1 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last FD 10 Oct.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R6): ICNC 23 Sep (JB).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last FD 12 Sep.
E. Towhee: last FD 17 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr FD 24 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last KC 7 Nov.
Field Sparrow: last FD 17 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last FD nesting area 10 Oct; migrants elsewhere FD 24 Oct; Canton 28 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last FD 19 Nov.
Fox Sparrow: arr ICNC 14 Oct; last Canton 16 Nov.
Song Sparrow: scarce after 28 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: FD 4 Oct, only report.
White-throated Sparrow: heavy movements 28 Sep-2 Oct and 10-14 Oct; scarce after 3 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Potsdam 25 Sep; max 75 FD 10 Oct; last FD 24 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr ICNC 21 Sep; 20 per day KC feeder 10 Oct thru 15 Nov.
Lapland Longspur: Canton 18 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr FD 30 Oct.
N. Cardinal: ad fy KC feeder 13 Oct, late.
Rusty Blackbird: arr ICNC 21 Sep; max 250 KC 15 Oct; last 9 ULLWMA 25 Nov.
Pine Grosbeak: arr 2 Canton 4 Nov; scattered singles thru mid Nov; many reports of 4-11 late Nov.
Purple Finch: widespread 5-20 per day thru 19 Oct; scarce after 28 Oct.
Com. Redpoll: arr FD 2 Nov; max 650 FD 20 Nov.
HOARY REDPOLL (R6): ad m FD 20 Nov (JB).
Pine Siskin: arr LPd 17 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: many reports throughout Region 14 Oct thru.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Pleasant weather continued into September, and, although Saranac Lake dropped to 30°F on the 5th and Lake Placid and Schroon Lake had a low of 33° on the 18th, much of the month was unseasonably warm. Saranac Lake had

rebounded to 90° on 7 September, Plattsbugh was 92° the following day, and Schuyler Falls thermometers read 91° by the 25th. Rains arrived at month's end, with 1.01" falling at Saranac Lake on the 28th. October brought more much-needed rain, especially at higher elevations, with 0.53" at Saranac Lake on the 6th and 1.05" there on the 23rd. Snow arrived on Election Day, 6 November, with three inches on Whiteface Mt. and two at Inlet. Temperatures fell to 11° at Saranac Lake on the 9th, then to 6° on the 11th. Mid-month brought a winter storm that left 4" of snow at Saranac Lake 15-16 November, and the temperature fell to +1° there on the 19th. Inlet was a subzero -2° on the 24th. The season closed with another snowstorm that left 6" at Duane and 3.5" at Schuyler Falls on 29 November. Lake Champlain stood at 95.53' on 1 September, continuing the drop that had begun in summer, before reaching a low of 94.75' on 17 October then rising rapidly to 96.72' by season's end.

Observers along Lake Champlain were rewarded with a variety of waterfowl, including such rarities as Cackling Goose at Beekmantown, Peru, and Point au Roche; Ross's Goose at Beekmantown; Tufted Duck at Noblewood Park; and the first regional Pacific Loon at Gravely Point of Cumberland Head. Elsewhere, two records and a total six Sandhill Crane at Ft. Covington and Redford were unprecedented here. Relatively low lake levels provided mudflats for shorebirds, resulting in a godwit (sp.)–most likely Hudsonian–at Ausable Point and a juvenile Ruff at the Chazy Riverlands. Lake watches also produced Parasitic Jaeger and Long-tailed Jaeger off the Cumberland Head ferry dock, as well as an adult Black-headed Gull southbound at Chazy Riverlands.

The most notable invasive species was Bohemian Waxwing, whose numbers exploded after a record early Essex County sighting along the Middle Road, Willsboro on 28 October, which tied the Region 7 arrival date, and a record early Hamilton County arrival at Indian Lake on 3 November. By 13 November, a huge flock of ~1,000 had gathered along the entrance road to Ausable Point S.P., with a similar number reportedly seen by a kayaker at the opposite side of the park at the same time, a new maxima for Clinton County and Region 7 and perhaps even New York. Flocks varying in size from a few to more than a hundred waxwings were widely reported through the remainder of the Fall season. Another noteworthy invasion began with a report of Pine Grosbeak calling and singing at Raquette Falls in the Central Adirondacks on 2-3 October, a record early arrival for Franklin County and Region 7, and flocks of anywhere from 2 to 30 were widely reported thereafter. Other northern species began to appear in strong numbers: Northern Shrike, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. A bumper crop of buckthorn, crabapple, and red cedar also attracted good numbers of Eastern Bluebird and American Robin. Several interesting reports came from alpine summits of Bicknell's Thrush, Orange-crowned and Bay-breasted warblers, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting. There were also a few early fall arrivals, a number of late departures, and a host of other interesting sightings. See the species accounts that follow for the solution to The Mystery of the Stick-carrying Bobcat.

A record 194 species were reported, demolishing the previous fall record of 175 species set in 2004. In addition to the 82 observers whose cumulative effort

made this seasonal record possible, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the thousands of contributors over the past quarter-century who have assisted this regional editor in reaching a benchmark of 100 consecutive seasonal reports. Our knowledge of the birds of the Adirondack-Champlain Region is much greater than a quarter-century ago thanks to your dedicated field work and care with records, and we're most grateful for your continued support.

CONTRIBUTORS

MaryAnne Allen, Thomas Armstrong, Thomas Barber, Laurel Carroll, Nancy Carter, Gary Chapin, Joan Collins, Sally Coyne, Anthony David, Charlcie Delehanty, Susan Delehanty, Diane Demers, Adam Duerr, Don Fasking, Corey Finger, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Donna Fletcher, Bob Gillis, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Julie Hart, Thomas Haley, Judith F. Heintz, John Hershey, Gary Johnson, Suzy Johnson, Edward Kanze, Bill Krueger, Dayna Lalonde, Beverly LaMere, Jory Langner, Linda LaPan, Rodney LaValley, Gary Lee, William J. Lee, William Lenhart, Kathy Linker, Richard MacDonald, Mark A. Manske, Lawrence Master, Brian McAllister, William McCann, Melanie A. McCormack, David Medler, Matthew D. Medler, Charles & Joan Mitchell, Shaibal Mitra, Michael & Wanda Moccio, Megan A. Murphy, James Murray, Jeff Nadler, Daniel Ouellette, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, John Peterson, Ann Marie Pozzini, Emily Pugsley, Ellen Rathbone, Will Raup, Neil Reilly, Chris Roberts, Dana Rohleder, Peggy Rudis, Richard Scales, William Stahl, Eric K. Teed, Philip Terrie, John & Patricia Thaxton, Eve D. Ticknor, Jan Trzeciak, Margaret Tsuda, Mary Beth Warburton, John Waller, Scott Wilson, Uta Wister, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, Nick Woodin, Lydia Wright.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt SHS; CR – Chazy Riverlands; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Indian L; LL – Long L; NP – Noblewood Pk; PtR – Pt au Roche SP; TL – Tupper L; WD – Wilcox Dock.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 30 CR 1 Oct (SW); 17 yellow neck collars read Beekmantown & PtR 17 Oct & 14 Nov (CF,BK); max 8000 PtR 11 Nov (AG,JL) or 7-10 thousand PtR 23 Nov (WS).

ROSS'S GOOSE: PtR 16 Oct-11 Nov (AG,BK,JL,PO); Pardy Rd, Beekmantown14 Nov (CF), great finds amongst the Snows.

CACKLING GOOSE: 3 Eccles Rd, Peru 30 Sep (EF); PtR 17 Oct; 2 PtR 18 Oct, one with white neck ring (BK); Deyo Rd, Beekmantown 10-11 Nov (AG,JL,WL); 3 Moffitt & Pardy Rds, Beekmantown 14 Nov (CF), great finds amongst the Canadas.

Brant: Inlet 25 Nov (GL), fairly late HAMI.

Gadwall: pr AP 24 Sep (PO), only report.

Am. Wigeon: arr m NP 22 Oct (JP,EKT); 19 m Bulwagga Bay 2 Nov (MDM), high ESSE; pr Westport 13 Nov (JP,EKT); max 24+ KB 17 Nov (BK), a good showing.

Green-winged Teal: arr max 13 NP 15 Sep (J&PT); m Westport 22 Oct (JP,EKT); 4 NP 28 Oct (J&PT); 6 Rouses Pt 22 Nov (WS), also good.

Redhead: arr 5 Bulwagga Bay 28 Oct (MDM), always scarce ESSE.

Ring-necked Duck: arr f NP 22 Oct (JP,EKT); max 370 Lincoln Pd 30 Oct (EKT).
TUFTED DUCK: f NP 7 Nov (PO), blunted tuft, yellow eye, solid dk brn head, grayish-br flanks, dull bluish bill, and a superb find.
Greater Scaup: max 2000 Pt Kent 18 Nov (DCR).
Lesser Scaup: WD 19 Nov (NO), plus several mixed flocks.
scaup (sp.): 1000 mixed Greater & Lesser KB 19 Nov (BK).
Surf Scoter: arr f NP 7 Nov (PO); CH 15 Oct (SJ,BK), good finds.
White-winged Scoter: arr pr AP 30 Sep (RM); 12 IL, FRAN 7 Oct (JT); 12 CH 22 Oct (BK); 5 NP 28 Oct (MDM), ditto.
Black Scoter: arr 2 m IL 7 Oct (JT), early FRAN; 2 CH 9 Nov (GJ,BK); WD 30 Nov (BK), ditto.
Long-tailed Duck: arr max 30-40 Pt Henry 28 Oct (MDM); pr WD 30 Oct (BK); f NP 2-3 Nov (MDM); f WD 10-30 Nov; 4 there 30 Nov (BK), 7 Mt View L 19 Nov (MT), a good showing.
Bufflehead: arr 4 KB 16 Oct (BK); max 225 NP 28 Oct (MDM).
Com. Goldeneye: max 1000+ NP 28 Oct (JP,EKT), low by recent standards.
Red-breasted Merganser: 18 CH 24 Oct (BK), only report.
Red-throated Loon: CH 22 Oct (BK,CM), excellent find.
PACIFIC LOON: juv Gravelly Pt of CH 6 Nov (BK,CM), 1st CLIN & Reg 7 record.
Com. Loon: max 22 LL 30 Sep (PGT), high HAMI.
Pied-billed Grebe: 2 juv L Adirondack 3 Nov (M&WM), late HAMI.
Horned Grebe: max 42 NP 3 Nov (MDM).
Red-necked Grebe: arr Raquette Pd 17 Oct (CD); 2 L Placid 21 Oct (LM); Westport 28 Oct (MDM); NP 29 Oct-3 Nov (MDM,EKT); Whallon's Bay 7 Nov (PO), Rock I Bay, TL 9 Nov (CD), a strong showing.
Double-crested Cormorant: yellow colored band on right leg from The Four Brothers sighted Hudson R, New Baltimore 20 Sep (RG); yell 7J8 color banded as ad The Four Brothers 2006, returned '07 (AD), sighted Robt Moses SP, SUFF 22 Sep (SM); max 50 CP 28 Oct (MDM).
Great Blue Heron: Bobcat carrying sticks below RR grade south of Ticonderoga 19 Nov was then seen actually to be dragging a dead Great Blue by the tarsi, through swale along the Champlain narrows marshes (TH, Amtrak *Adirondack* engineer). It's a tough world out there.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: imm & ad Essex nest 4-12 Sep (J&PT); Fifth L 10 Nov (GL), fairly late HAMI.
Broad-winged Hawk: max. 58 Noonmark 16 Sep (MAM,EKT), 12:30-3 p.m.
Golden Eagle: imm Round Top Mt, Keene 20 Sep (J&PT); ads Jay 9 Oct & 10 Oct (PO); Bombay 20 Oct (MAM); Azure Mt 26 Oct (JC); AP 25 Nov (J&PT), a strong showing.
Am. Kestrel: m banded as nestling Moira 10 Jul found dead Camden, ONEI 14 Sep (RS); f sibling from same nestbox (MAM) found dead Greensboro, NC 15 Sep (JW), endorsing earlier southbound migration of females.
Merlin: AP, Champlain, Essex, Keene, Lost Pd, Lyon Mt, NP, PtR, Redford, TL, now typical.
Peregrine Falcon: Azure Mt, CH, Coot Hill, CP, Noonmark, NP, Plattsburgh, ditto.
Sora: CR 15 Sep (BK), rarely reported.
Com. Moorhen: juv CR 2 Sep-9 Oct; max 3 [2 ads, juv] CR 14 Sep (BK).
Am. Coot: AP 24 Sep-3 Nov (TA,PO); WD 1 Nov (BK); max 31 Bulwagga Bay 2 Nov (MDM), high ESSE.
SANDHILL CRANE: max 4 Ft. Covington 8 Sep (AD), flying toward QC, 4th FRAN & 8th Reg 7 records, Regional maxima; **2** Redford 1 Oct (DF), 4th CLIN & 9th Reg 7 records, numbers unprecedented.
Black-bellied Plover: NP 2-30 Sep (EKT,J&PT); 2 NP 28 Oct (J&PT); PtR 6 Oct (BK); last CR 29 Oct (BK,CM).
Am. Golden-Plover: NP 11 Sep (LM, MAM), after none in summer.
Semipalmated Plover: CR 5 Sep (BK); NP 1-3 Sep (JH, MDM) 6 NP 6 & 17 Sep (MAM, EKT, J&PT); 6 PtR 19 Sep (BK), good numbers.
Killdeer: WD 19 Nov (NO); Altona 29 Nov (RL), fairly late.
Gr. Yellowlegs: 1-3 NP 6 Sep-3 Nov (MDM, J&PT); 4 KB 8-18 Sep (BK); WD 14 Sep (BK,CM); 2 PtR 6-18 Oct (BK), fairly typical.
Lesser Yellowlegs: Raquette R, LL 1 Sep (JC), 6th HAMI record since 1878; 1-2 NP 6-30 Sep (J&PT), where expected.
Solitary Sandpiper: 3 Westport 4 Sep (EKT); last KB 5 Sep (BK).
GODWIT (SP.): AP 28 Oct (MAM), dark

legs, long upturned pinkish bill.
Sanderling: 2 NP 11 Sep (LM); NP 9 Nov (JN) to 11 Nov (J&PT), late ESSE.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7 NP 1 Sep (JH,MDM); NP 17 Sep (MAM,EKT), rather scarce.
Least Sandpiper: CR 2 & 11 Sept (BK); 1-3 NP 4-15 Sep (J&PT), similarly low.
White-rumped Sandpiper: ad NP 4-6 Sep (LM, J&PT), nice find.
Baird's Sandpiper: CR 2 Sep (BK); 2-3 NP 3-6 Sep (JH,MDM,EKT,J&PT), good finds.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 1-2 NP 17-19 Sep (MAM,JN,EKT,J&PT), only fall report.
Dunlin: CR 20 Sep; max 4 KB 16 Oct (BK); NP 6 Nov (CF,WR), usual wide window.
RUFF: juv m CR 2 Sep (BK), an outstanding find.
Short-billed Dowitcher: NP 9 Sep (MMc), only fall report.
Wilson's Snipe: 3 AP 3 Nov (TA), fairly late.
PARASITIC JAEGER: CH ferry dock 12 Nov (BK), 4th CLIN record.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: CH ferry dock 16 Nov (BK), 2nd CLIN record.
Little Gull: ads Gilbert Ck Marina 21 Sep; CH 22 Oct; 1 Nov (BK); 4 Nov (BK,CM), 20th-23rd CLIN records; NP 6 Nov (CF,WR), a strong showing.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: winter ad CR 17 Sep (BK), southbound, 2nd CLIN & 3rd Reg 7 record.
Bonaparte's Gull: max. 1200 NP 24-25 Sep (MMc,EKT), where present 1 Sep-13 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 26 NP 30 Sep (J&PT).
Caspian Tern: ad NP 2 Sep (JH,MDM), last report.
Com. Tern: 2-4 NP 6 Sep-7 Oct (LM,EDT); midlake CH ferry 28 Oct (HW), late CLIN.
Black Tern: NP 14-15 Sep (MDM,J&PT); juv NP 19 Sep (JN), last reports.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

E. Screech-Owl: gray-phase Keene 1 Oct; gray-phase Spruce Hill same date (J&PT); pr calling Mooers 15-30 Oct (CR), always welcome.
Barred Owl: leucistic owl Witherbee 8 p.m. 25 Nov (MA,CW), white with dark markings, brown eyes, viewed with light & scope.
Long-eared Owl: Raquette Falls 2-3 Oct (TB), rarely reported.
Short-eared Owl: Eccles Rd, Peru 5 Nov (E&HF); Bombay 24 Nov (HW), encouraging.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Keene 21 Sep (J&PT); Dannemora 30 Sep (JFH); Jay 25 Oct (PO).
Com. Nighthawk: Pt Kent 3 Sep (DR), only report.
Belted Kingfisher: Inlet 29 Nov (GL), late HAMI.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: LL 1 Oct (PGT), late HAMI; TL 6 Oct (CD), late FRAN; CH 4 Oct, Keene Valley 5 Oct, normal CLIN & ESSE.
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: FB 9 Nov (*fide* GL), only report.
Black-backed Woodpecker: m Catamount Mt trailhead 1 Sep (DPM,MDM), rare CLIN; BB, Boreas R, Brothers, FB, Helldiver Pd, Oregon Plains Rd, known locales.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: transient Elizabethtwon 8 Sep (JP).
N. Shrike: arr Peru 28 Oct (E&HF); ~22 subsequent reports, a strong showing.
Yellow-throated Vireo: NP 2 Sep (EKT), rarely reported.
Philadelphia Vireo: Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 3 Sep (J&PT); Giant Mt 5 Sep (MMc), nice finds.
Gray Jay: BB, Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale, FB, Lost Pds, Paul Smiths VIC feeders, usual locales.
Am. Crow: max 1000 Essex 7 Nov (PO), high ESSE.
Horned Lark: 2 flocks IL 24 Nov (DS), uncommon HAMI; 6 N Farm Rd, Chazy (BK,CM), included leucistic lark, entirely cream-colored with areas tinted beige.
Boreal Chickadee: Armstrong, BB, Bigelow Rd, Bloomingdale, Brothers, Brown's Tract, FB, Giant Mt, Gothics, Nun-da-ga-o Ridge, Sawteeth, expected locales.
Tufted Titmouse: 4-5 AP, CH, Chilson, 4 Elizabethtown, Jay, L Placid, New Russia, NP, Peru, TL, Ticonderoga, now expected numbers.
Carolina Wren: CH thru (NO); Westport 28 Oct (MDM); Plattsburgh 13-30 Nov (CM), still good finds as invasion continues.
Winter Wren: Westport 13 Nov (JP,EKT), rare after September here.
Sedge Wren: 2 CR 15 Sep (BK), always an excellent find.
Veery: Plattsburgh 15 Oct (C&JM), late CLIN.
E. Bluebird: max 25 Peru 14 Oct (EF),

several other flocks & individuals in lowlands.
Bicknell's Thrush: max 9 Armstrong-Wolfjaws 9 Sep, calling & singing, high ESSE; 3 Armstrong-Wolfjaws 16 Sep (DD); 3 Phelps Mt 16 Sep (J&PT); 2 calling Armstrong, Sawteeth 25 Sep (DD).
Am. Robin: max 50 Essex 3 Nov (MDM), several other flocks in lowlands.
Am. Pipit: 3 Inlet 4 Oct (GL), 7th HAMI record; 8 BB 8 Oct (BM); max 70 Beekmantown 16 Oct (PO); 25 Wadhams 22 Oct (JP,EKT); 2 Azure Mt 26 Oct (JC); 2 NP 28 Oct (MDM), an exceptionally strong showing.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: arr 49 Willsboro **28 Oct** (MDM), early ESSE, ties Region 7 earliest arr date; 16 IL 3 Nov (M&WM), early HAMI; 17 banded Elizabethtown 12 Nov (JP); max *1000+* AP 13 Nov (PO), between entrance & Greenleaf T. Chase platform, with kayaker guide reporting an *equal number* on the Ausable R delta side of the park, high CLIN and Region 7; 40+ other reports, mostly from CLIN & ESSE, a record invasion winter.
Cedar Waxwing: 2 Moriah 30 Oct (EKT); 2 Essex 13 Nov (PO,JP,EKT), the latter in mixed flock of Bohemians & Pine Grosbeaks.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 3 Sep (J&PT), nice find.
Yellow Warbler: NP 20 Sep (MDM), late ESSE.
Pine Warbler: Brown's Tract Pd 19 Sep (GL), late HAMI; NP 6 Nov (CF,WR), late ESSE, except for single Jan record.
Palm Warbler: "Western" & "Yellow" in mixed flock BB 27 Sep (BM); "Yellow" New Russia 2 Oct (EKT); also AP 30 Sep (RM); Keene Valley 5 Oct (J&PT); 4 BB 8 Oct (BM); Jay 10 Oct (PO), race not mentioned.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Nun-da-ga-o Ridge 3 Sep (J&PT); 4289' Gothic Mt 23 Sep (DD), apparently still on breeding grounds.
Blackpoll Warbler: The Brothers 23 Sep (J&PT); max 12 Armstrong & Upper Wolf Jay-Gothics ~4,150' 16 Sep (DD); last Sawteeth-Upper Wolf Jaw 23 Sep (DD), still on breeding grounds.
Black-and-white Warbler: Dannemora 30 Sep (JH), late CLIN.
Wilson's Warbler: The Brothers 23 Sep (J&PT), only report.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Inlet 8 Oct (GL), rare HAMI.
Chipping Sparrow: max 20 Inlet 16 Sep (GL), high HAMI.
Vesper Sparrow: Jay 9-10 Oct (PO), only report.
Fox Sparrow: arr Jay 17 Oct (PO); also Crown Pt, Elizabethtown, Essex, Noonmark, Peru, TL.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Dannemora 29 Sep (JKH); Inlet 30 Sep (GL), early HAMI.
Lapland Longspur: arr pr 3600' summit Jay Mt 7 Oct (J&PT), early ESSE.
Snow Bunting: arr 3556' summit Noonmark 21 Oct (MAM,EKT); max 1,000+ N Farm Rd, Chazy 25 Nov (BK,CM), high CLIN, over a dozen other reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: 50 Essex 7 Nov (PO); 1000s Westport 9 Nov (JN), 80 Essex 11 Nov (J&PT), late high numbers.
Rusty Blackbird: Little TL 6 Oct (WL); 6 Essex 7 Nov (PO); Jay 17-19 Nov (PO).
Com. Grackle: max ~80 Ticonderoga 30 Nov (NC), late high number.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max ~20 Ticonderoga 30 Nov (NC), late high number.
Baltimore Oriole: Sagamore 6 Sep (GL), late HAMI.
PINE GROSBEAK: arr Raquette Falls 2-3 Oct (TBV), early FRAN & Reg 7; 4 banded Elizabethtown 12 Nov (JP); ~30 other reports, mostly from CLIN & ESSE, a major invasion.
Purple Finch: notably scarce, a scattering at feeders.
House Finch: CH & Essex, only reports.
Red Crossbill: Bigelow Rd 11 Nov (AG,JL), only report.
White-winged Crossbill: Bigelow Rd 11 Nov (AG,JL); heard NP 13 Nov (PO,EKT), only reports.
Com. Redpoll: arr LL 28 Oct (JM); max 60 CR 24 Nov (BK); a dozen other reports, suggestive of invasion.
Hoary Redpoll: Mountain View 23 Nov (WM,JT), 8th FRAN record.
Pine Siskin: max 50 L Placid Sep-Oct (LM); others CH, Keene, Jay, Peru, New Russia, Ticonderoga, Witherbee..
Am. Goldfinch: many Essex 7 Nov (PO), otherwise irregular at feeders.
Evening Grosbeak: max 50 Elizabethtown 17 Oct (J&PT); 16 other reports, mostly at feeders.

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Fall 2007 can be characterized by warmer than average temperatures and variable rainfall. September ushered in localized warmth and mild drought ending 3.7°F above average at Albany International Airport. The season's warming trend continued in October, which was 7.5° above average. Rainfall in October measured 1.3" above average occurring in several small storms. The first frost occurred the day before Halloween, just dipping below the freezing point to 31°. The first hard frost occurred a few days later. November chilled considerably, ending 1.6° below average. No significant snow fell this season and most bodies of water remained entirely ice-free.

Two reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** are unusual, as were reports of all three species of scoters and a dozen **Tundra Swans** in northern Columbia County. Some locally impressive waterfowl maxima occurred in such places as Galway Lake, Saratoga County, and Tomhannock Reservoir, Rensselaer County, where birders recorded among other things 250 Ring-necked Ducks, 200 Common Goldeneyes, and 220 Hooded Mergansers.

John Hershey spotted a first-winter male **King Eider** on the Mohawk River near Lock 7. He snapped some quick photos, took good notes, and posted a link about the bird which fortunately cooperated long enough for others to see and photograph it.

Shorebirds this season were not abundant, but birders did manage to round out a diverse checklist by seeing several species that appear locally only a few times a decade, including **American Golden-Plover**, **Buff-Breasted Sandpiper**, and **Baird's Sandpiper**.

While kayaking in September on the Hudson River, Rich Guthrie spotted a yellow leg band on a Double-Crested Cormorant near New Baltimore and posted comments on the nysbirds-listserve soliciting information about cormorant banding. Susan Elbin from the New York Bioscape Initiative replied that the bird came from a US-Canadian study on cormorant migration. Many other birders posted their sightings of banded cormorants proving once again that amateur birders are a critical resource for ornithologists studying migration and population ecology.

The fall departure of neotropical migrants happened gradually, with only a few heavy nocturnal flights on September 1-2 and 11-12. Three reports of Connecticut Warbler and an Orange-crowned Warbler are unusual. Rich and Gail Nord in Claverack, Columbia County, had the pleasure of watching a **Dickcissel** at their feeder. However the bird did not stay long. Bob Yunick banded an immature **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Tom Palmer's property in Montgomery County. Birders found this species nearby this past summer suggesting that Clay-Colored Sparrows may breed in the productive grassland-shrub habitat of the Mohawk Valley, something to keep a keen eye (and ears)

out for next spring. Bob also reported a record-breaking number of Lincoln Sparrows this banding season.

Estimates from northern New York and Canada implied a good year for winter finches, and data from Region 8 lend confidence to this prediction. Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, and especially **Pine Grosbeak**, which birders found feeding on ornamental crab apples in suburban yards, exhibited higher-than-average fall numbers.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brausch, Jim Coe, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, Tim Dormady, Joan Fazzone, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Woody Gillies, Elizabeth Grace, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Eric Krantz, Bill Lee, Mitzi Lobdell, Doris Mark, Andrew Mason, Norton Miller, Roger Miller, Jeff Nadler, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, John Piwowarski, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Susan Scheck, Susan Stewart, Scot Stoner, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Brad Walker, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Matt Young, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMS – T Amsterdam MONT; COH – T Cohoes ALBA; COX – T Coxsackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; GL – Galway L SARA; HR – Hudson Ri; LIV – T Livingston COLU; MR – Mohawk Ri; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: TR 25 Oct (BL, et al.); Coopers Pd Brunswick RENS 22 Nov (BW).
Snow Goose: max 100 TR 28 Nov.
Brant: COH 29-30 Oct; 2 Stanton Pd ALBA 12 Nov.
TUNDRA SWAN: 12 Canaan COLU 15 Nov (RG).
Wood Duck: last 10 TR 3 Nov.
Gadwall: max 6 VF 4 Nov.
Am. Wigeon: max 35 Stanton Pd ALBA 29 Sep.
Blue-winged Teal: last 40 VF 17 Sep.
N. Pintail: max 10 Stanton Pd ALBA 12 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 20 TR 25 Oct.
Canvasback: GL 29 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: max 250 Loughberry L SARA 4 Nov.
Greater Scaup: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 1 Nov.
KING EIDER: Niskayuna Lock 7 SCHE 25 Nov-3 Dec (JH), photographed.
Surf Scoter: 3 Queechy L COLU 3 Oct; TR 25 Oct; Stillwater SARA 8-11 Nov; Lock 7 MR 18 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: Myosotis L ALBA 29 Sep-7 Oct; Stillwater SARA 11 Nov.
Black Scoter: 13 TR 25 Oct; Lock 7 MR 18 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: TR 25 Oct; Ft Miller WASH 8 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: max 200 TR 23 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 220 GL 25 Nov.
Com. Merganser: max 300 Nassau L RENS 14 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: 7 Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov; 3 New Baltimore GREE 18 Nov; Lock 7 MR SCHE 25 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 150 COX Res GREE 12 Nov.
Ring-necked Pheasant: Clermont COLU 13 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: Ballston L SARA 23 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 4 Nov; 3 TR 25 Oct-11 Nov; L George WARR 13-22 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 Saratoga L SARA 1 Nov; last HR COLU 19 Nov.
Horned Grebe: TR 16 Oct; GL SARA 24 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: HR at Germantown COLU 4 Nov.
Double-crested Cormorant: last Clermont COLU 24 Nov.
Am. Bittern: last COX flats 8 Oct.
Great Egret: last Germantown COLU 14 Oct.
Green Heron: last Copake COLU 6 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: VF 1 Sep; 4 COH 1-6 Sep.
Turkey Vulture: last LIV 21 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last TR 25 Oct.
N. Harrier: numerous reports in Oct and Nov of single birds.
N. Goshawk: Glen Doone ALBA 13 Sep; Partridge Run ALBA 12 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Jenny L SARA 22 Sep; Galway SARA 29 Nov.
Broad-winged Hawk: last VF 30 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: COX flats 21 Oct; Rensselaerville RENS 12 Nov.
Merlin: COH 1 Sep; Peebles I SARA 1 Sep; VF 2 Sep; Wright's Loop SARA 11 Sep; Five Rivers ALBA 2 Oct; Niskayuna SCHE 2 Oct; New Baltimore GREE 10 Oct; Schenectady 25 Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: New Baltimore GREE 10 Oct; Lock 7 MR SCHE 26 Nov.
Am. Coot: max 90 HR at Germantown COLU 18 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: last COH 27 Sep.
AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER: 3 COH 23-27 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: last 10 COH 6 Sep.
Killdeer: last Hillsdale COLU 11 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: last Chatham COLU 19 Sep.
Solitary Sandpiper: last HR at Stockport COLU 2 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: last Schaghticoke RENS 11 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last Claverack COLU 1 Oct.
Ruddy Turnstone: COH 6 Sep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 8 COH 6 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 16 COH 6 Sep.
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: COH 6 Sep (BL).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 COX flats 23 Sep-1 Oct; 2 Myosotis L ALBA 7 Oct.
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Stanton Pd ALBA 3 Sep.
Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Ft. Miller WASH18 Oct.
Am. Woodcock: last New Salem RENS 29 Nov.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last VF 20 SEP.
Short-eared Owl: max 3 FtE 21 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: max 49 LIV 2 Sep; last Kingsbury WASH 8 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Ghent COLU 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Coeymans ALBA 3 Sep; VF 13 Sep; COX flats 13 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last VF 30 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: COX flats 8 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last E Greenbush RENS 6 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last VF 13 Sep.
N. Shrike: COX flats 3 Nov; Easton WASH 8 Nov; FtE 8 Nov; Fiver Rivers ALBA 12 Nov; Brunswick RENS 16 Nov; AMS 19 Nov; TR 25 Nov; Florida MONT 25 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last COX flats 7 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last AMS 22 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last VF 20 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: VF 20 Sep; RENS tech park 23 Sep; Peebles I SARA 25 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Austerlitz COLU 18 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last TR 11 Nov.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last VF 8 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last Taghkanic COLU 18 Sep.
House Wren: last LIV 1 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last VF 1 Sep.
Veery: last Saratoga Battlefield SARA 1 Sep.
Bicknell's Thrush: AMS 5 Sep, banded RY.
Swainson's Thrush: last Ghent COLU 4 Nov.
Wood Thrush: last COX flats 1 Oct.
Gray Catbird: last COX flats 10 Nov.
Brown Thrasher: last Germantown COLU 11 Oct.

Am. Pipit: max 40 FtE 8 Nov.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: unspecified number "flock" Greenfield SARA 23 Nov (RH).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last Greenport COLU 23 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last VF 1 Sep.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: COX flats 20 Oct (RG).
Nashville Warbler: last VF 20 Sep.
N. Parula: last Middle Grove SARA 20 Oct.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last VF 1 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last VF 30 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last Round L SARA 4 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Saratoga Battlefield SARA 13 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last LIV 30 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last Albany 15 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last Black Creek Marsh ALBA 15 Sep.
Prairie Warbler: last Coeymans ALBA 3 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last LIV 4 Nov.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last Round L SARA 4 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last VF 30 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Petersburgh RENS 8 Sep.
Am. Redstart: last Clermont COLU 13 Oct.
Ovenbird: last Papscanee I RENS 23 Sep.
N. Waterthrush: last VF 13 Sep.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: AMS 5 Sep (RY); COX flats 11 Sep (RG); Austerlitz COLU 1 Oct (ML).
Mourning Warbler: Lake Taghkanic COLU 2 Sep; 2 AMS 13 Sep; AMS 21 Sep; last RENS tech park 23 Sep.
Com. Yellowthroat: last AMS 24 Oct
Wilson's Warbler: last 3 RENS tech park 23 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last VF 8 Sep.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last VF 30 Sep.
E. Towhee: last Hillsdale COLU 7 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last Rensselaer Plateau 23 Nov.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: AMS 21-25 Sep, banded (RY).
Field Sparrow: last Rensselaerville RENS 8 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last COX flats GREE 25 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last AMS 8 Nov.
Fox Sparrow: last E Greenbush RENS 21 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last COX flats GREE 29 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: last AMS 8 Nov.
Snow Bunting: arr Partridge Run ALBA 12 Nov; FtE 21 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Meco FULT 11 Nov.
Indigo Bunting: last FtE 18 Oct.
DICKCISSEL: Claverack COLU 26 Oct, at feeder (G&RN).
Bobolink: last max 50 Papscanee I RENS 1 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: last Taghkanic COLU 13 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 30 VF 7 Oct; last VF 3 Nov.
Baltimore Oriole: last Austerlitz COLU 23 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: 6 Gansevoort SARA 9 Nov; 2 Grafton RENS 10 Nov; 6 Rensselaer Plateau 23 Nov; 4 Galway SARA 24 Nov; 4 Pattersonville SCHE 24 Nov; 5 E Greenbush RENS 29 Nov.
Purple Finch: max 25 Jenny L SARA 3 Sep.
Red Crossbill: Hannacroix GREE 12 Nov; Meco FULT 20 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: Loudonville ALBA 25 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: max 15 Burnt Hills ALBA 23 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 12 New Baltimore GREE 10 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: max 18 Galway SARA 24 Nov.

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REGION 9—HUDSON - DELAWARE

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September was warm and dry, continuing the dry conditions from August. Normally, White Plains sees 4.7" of rain for the month, but only two and a half inches fell and most of it came in only one rain event on 10-11 September. The Region was unusually hot late in the month, with White Plains reaching 85°F on both the 25th and 26th and Poughkeepsie hitting 90° on the 26th. The month was 2.8° warmer than normal in Poughkeepsie and 2.4° warmer in White Plains. The unusual hot weather continued in October. It reached 80° and above in many parts of the Region from the 4th to the 8th, with Poughkeepsie hitting 89° on the 8th. It remained warm till the 30th when Poughkeepsie finally dipped below the freezing mark. The month was 7° to 8° warmer than average. It was also wetter than normal with White Plains having 5.4" for October compared with the normal 4.2". November was near normal in both precipitation and temperature.

A Greater White-fronted Goose was found in Pine Plains 11 November and a Cackling Goose was reported from Montgomery 21 November. Other unusual waterfowl included a Eurasian Wigeon at Rockland Lake 6 November and it stayed thru the period. Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, and Long-tailed Duck were reported inland. Both Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe were reported from Sullivan County. The Liberty Marsh Glossy Ibis from August remained until 1 September to make the fall report.

The area hawk watches all noticed a significant increase in Northern Harrier numbers as well as Golden Eagle sightings. Red-shouldered Hawk numbers were down. Broad-winged Hawks moved between 16-19 September, with Mt. Peter having the best numbers--1897 on the 16th and 1299 the following day.

A Wilson's Phalarope visited Liberty Marsh in the Wallkill NWR on 1 September.

Christine Guarino and Curt McDermott found a Black-legged Kittiwake on Glenmere Lake in Florida on the afternoon of 21 November, but it was not reported the next day. Two Caspian Terns visited Marshlands Conservatory in Rye on 27 September. Black Terns were reported from three locations: Denning's Point 10 September, Wallkill NWR the same day, and Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary on 27 October.

In late October, Renee Davis was informed of the presence of a hummingbird at a private feeder in Sullivan County. She, along with John Haas, finally saw the bird on 29 October. John was able to photograph the bird and post the pictures on the web. This led to the identification as an adult female or sub adult **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD**. This represents the 2nd record for New York. The homeowners valued their privacy and did not want the bird stressed in any way. A few lucky reputable birders were allowed to come the following weekend and verified the bird as an Anna's. The bird was monitored into late

November but the temperature dipped into the low teens and the bird was found dead on 22 November. The bird was given to the American Museum Natural History in New York City, where it was examined and again confirmed to be an Anna's. It will remain in their collection as the first specimen of this species from New York and northeastern North America.

Westchester County's first record of **SAY'S PHOEBE** was found at Westchester Community College on 16 September. Unfortunately, it was not seen the next morning or subsequently.

A few Northern Shrike reports from late October into November from Sullivan, Ulster and Dutchess Counties gives hope for a good shrike year.

Two **CAVE SWALLOWS** were found by Curt McDermott at Greenwood Lake in southern Orange County on 9 November and remained until the 12th.

Connecticut Warblers made an impressive showing, with four sightings from Poughquag, Walden Cemetery, Marshlands Conservancy, and Lenoir Nature Preserve.

Clay-colored Sparrows were found in Stony Kill 20, 22 October and at Lenoir Nature Preserve 22, 23 October. The Lenoir bird was Westchester County's 6th record.

A Boat-tailed Grackle was found at Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 13 September and possibly the same bird was there nearly two weeks later on the 25th.

It looks like it will be a good winter for some winter finches: Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll were found in good numbers in north east Sullivan County in a few locations in mid November, a single White-winged Crossbill visited a Dutchess County feeder on 13, 14 October, and a single Red Crossbill was in Parksville, Sullivan County 19 November. There were also a good number of scattered reports for both Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak late in the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Point Park ; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center ; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Pine Plains 3,11 Nov (CV).
Snow Goose: 123 Livingston Manor 23 Nov; 60 MC 29 Nov.
Brant: 2050 EGR 25 Oct; there was a notable lack of flights past inland hawk watches.
CACKLING GOOSE: Montgomery 21 Nov (CG,CM).
Wood Duck: 63 Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers 3 -15 Nov; 35 Lake Walton 6 Nov.
Gadwall: EGR 28 Oct.
Eurasian Wigeon: Rockland L 6-30 Nov (CW, GB,ET,AW).
Am. Wigeon: 6 EGR 28 Oct.
Green-winged Teal: 28 Vandenburg Cove, Hyde Park 30 Sep.
Ring-necked Duck: 40 Abel's Pond, Union Vale 27 Sep; 40 Stissing Pond 4 Nov; 280 Abels Pond, Union Vale 4 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr 10 MC 30 Sep; 21 Neversink Res 27 Oct; 180 EGR 29 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: 20 EGR 29 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 25 MC 25 Oct; Swan L 27 Oct (JH,LV,ABo); 25 LNP 28 Oct (KB); 6 EGR 29 Nov.
White-winged Scoter: 5 Neversink Res 8 Nov (RS,RM); 18 EGR 29 Nov.
Black Scoter: 15 EGR 25 Oct; Kiamesha L, Monticello 27 Oct (JH,LV,ABo) 20 LNP 28 Oct (JO,MB).
Long-tailed Duck: arr Kiamesha Lake 28 Oct (JH,LV,ABo); 50 Neversink Res 8 Nov (RS,RM); Beekman 18,19 Nov; 60 EGR 29 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 9 EGR 25 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr Kiamesha Lake 28 Oct; 40 Yankee L 25 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: 19 EGR 31 Oct.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr 3 EGR 27 Oct; Yankee L 25, 27 Nov; Denning's Pt 29 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: arr 5 EGR 31 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: Neversink Res 28 Oct (LV); 8 EGR 29 Nov.
Com. Loon: arr 3 MC 2 Oct.
Horned Grebe: 2 Neversink Res 28 Oct (JH,LV,ABo); Denning's Pt 10 Nov (TM).
Red-necked Grebe: Kiamesha Lake 19 Nov (JH,ABo); 2 Neversink Res 30 Nov.
N. Gannet: EGR 4 Nov; 2 EGR 29 Nov.
Great Cormorant: arr 2 EGR 27 Nov.
Am. Bittern: MC 30 Oct.
Great Egret: MC 1, 27 Nov; 12 EGR 4 Nov.
Snowy Egret: EGR 8 Nov.
Glossy Ibis: Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR thru 1 Sep (C&KF,JH), continuing from 25 Aug or before.
Black Vulture: 6 Chestnut Ridge 13 Oct; 5 LNP 14 Oct; 75 SGNWR 31 Oct; 12 Mt Peter 6 Nov.
Turkey Vulture: 70 Chestnut Ridge 29 Oct; 45 SGNWR 31 Oct; 111LNP 3 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 41 LNP 15 Sep; 26 Chestnut Ridge 26 Sep; last 24 Nov.
Bald Eagle: 14 LNP 16 Sep; 8 Hook Mt 16 Sep; 5 Mt Peter 28 Oct.
N. Harrier: 10 Hook Mt 29 Sep; 10 LNP 14 Oct; numbers were up on all watches.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 135 Hook Mt 5 Sep; 140 Hook Mt 24 Sep; 121 Chestnut Ridge 29 Sep.
Cooper's Hawk: 26 Chestnut Ridge 13 Oct; 26 Hook Mt 13 Oct; 23 LNP 14 Oct.
N. Goshawk: Hook Mt 4 Sep; Chestnut Ridge 12,20 Oct; 2 LNP 20 Oct; Monticello 24 Oct; LNP 26 Oct; 4 Summitville 28 Oct; 2 Mt Peter 2 Nov; LNP 3 Nov; Chestnut Ridge 3 Nov; Horseshoe L 5 Nov; 3 LNP 10 Nov; Mt Peter 11 Nov; Chestnut Ridge 11 Nov; Rhinebeck 18 Nov.
Red-shouldered Hawk: low numbers at hawk watches; 12 LNP 14 Oct; 16 Hook Mt 16 Oct; 12 Mt Peter 28 Oct; 17 Hook Mt 30 Oct.
Broad-winged Hawk: 1223 Chestnut Ridge 16 Sep; 1736 LNP 16 Sep; 1826 Hook Mt 16 Sep; 1897 Mount Peter, Warwick 16 Sep; 1299 Mount Peter, Warwick 17 Sep; last 15 Oct.
Red-tailed Hawk: white with red tail Mt Peter 12 Sep; albino Hook Mt 25 Sep (SS); 27 LNP 28 Oct; 79 Mt Peter 28 Oct; albino Nanuet 10 Nov (ET).

Rough-legged Hawk: LNP 15 Oct; 2 Chestnut Ridge 9 Nov; Rhinebeck 30 Nov.
Golden Eagle: Spring Valley 2 Oct; Chestnut Ridge 12 Oct; Summitville Hawk Watch 13 Oct; Mt Peter 14,16 Oct; Hook Mt 22 Oct; 3 Summitville Hawk Watch 28 Oct; Amenia 4 Nov; Mt Peter 8 Nov; 2 Stissing Mt 27 Nov.
Am. Kestrel: 39 Hook Mt 5 Sep; 42 Chestnut Ridge 13 Sep; 41 Hook Mt 15 Sep; 18 LNP 14 Oct; 30 Mt Peter 28 Oct.
Merlin: 9 LNP 14 Oct; 7 LNP 20 Oct; 6 Hook Mt 21 Oct.
Clapper Rail: 1-2 MC 5,5,26 Sep; 3 MC 5 Oct.
Sora: Rhinebeck 18 Sep.
Am. Coot: MC 26 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: 3 MC 28 Sep; 9 MC 1 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: 1-2 Wallkill NWR, Pine Island area 1,2 Sep (C&KF,JH); MC 12 Sep; Morningside Park 15, 22 Sep (LV, JH).
Semipalmated Plover: 6 MC 4 Sep.
Killdeer: 26 MC 12 Sep.
Am. Oystercatcher: Rye 21 Sep; EGR 29 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: 8 MC 30 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: MC 12,27 Sep.
Spotted Sandpiper: 8 Dennings Pt 4 Sep.
Ruddy Turnstone: EGR 28 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 12 MC 4 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: 6 MC 5 Sep.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR 1,2 Sep (JH).
Purple Sandpiper: 6 EGR 28 Nov.
Dunlin: 2 MC 16 Oct; 7 Swan L 27 Oct; 8 MC 1 Nov.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 7 MC 4 Sep.
Wilson's Phalarope: Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR 1 Sep (JH).
Laughing Gull: 200 EGR 27 Oct; 8 EGR 29 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: MC 1,16 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Monticello 24 Nov
Black-legged Kittiwake: Glenmere Lake, Florida 21 Nov (CG,CM).
Caspian Tern: 2 MC 27 Sep (TB).
Forster's Tern: 28 MC 17 Oct; 20 EGR 23 Oct; 63 EGR 4 Nov.
Black Tern: Denning's Point 10 Sep (TM); Wallkill NWR 10 Sep (RS); EGR 27 Oct (TB).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Short-eared Owl: 4 SGNWR 8,24 Nov; 8 SGNWR 28 Nov.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD: SULL 29 Oct – 22 Nov (RD, JH, VF), 2nd record for NYS, found dead 22 Nov, specimen now at AMNH, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Mt Peter 4 Sep.
SAY'S PHOEBE: Westchester Community College 16 Sep (DP), 1st WEST record.
N. Shrike: Kiamesha L, Monticello 27,28 Oct; SGNWR 31 Oct -30 Nov; Amenia 14 Nov ; Neversink 18-26 Nov; Hyde Park 28 Nov.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Vanderbilt 12 Sep; 3 Bashakill 16 Sep; Verbank 22 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 2 Greenwood Lake, Orange County 9-12 Nov (CM).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: arr early Sep.
Marsh Wren: 7 MC 6 Sep.
Am. Pipit: LNP 14 Oct; 100 Bashakill 24 Oct; 3 Neversink Res 27 Oct; 30 Callicoon Center 28 Oct; 6 CPP 17 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: 100 MC 8,16 Nov; 110 LaGrange 21 Nov.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: Bashakill 1 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: LNP 13 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: 5 Bashakill 16 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: Bashakill 2 Sep.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Yonkers 17 Nov.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 1-2 Bashakill 1,2 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: Poughquag 8 Sep (HT, CP); Walden Cemetery 13 Sep (CG,CM); MC 26 Sep (TB); LPN 29 Sept (PS).
Mourning Warbler: MC 5 Sep; Bashakill 16 Sep; Rye Nature Center 25 Sep; MC 27 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: MC 12,18 Nov.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: FOS 18 Nov.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Stony Kill 20,22 Oct (SG; PB); LNP 22,23 Oct (PS, MB,JO).
Vesper Sparrow: 2 CPP 17 Nov.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR 1 Sep (RSt).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 27 Sep; 6 MC 2 Oct; 2 MC 30 Oct; MC 1 Nov.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 5 MC 27 Sep.
Song Sparrow: 50 MC 15 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: many reports in October
Swamp Sparrow: 30 MC 1 Nov.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 24 Sep.
White-crowned Sparrow:10 LNP 13 Oct; 15 MC 16 Oct; 23 Bowdoin Pk, Poughkeepsie 7 Nov; many scattered reports, more than typical.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr 15 Oct.
Snow Bunting: Hook Mt 28,29 Oct; 3 Piermont Pier 4 Nov; 20 LaGrangeville 8 Nov;12 Nyack 10 Nov; EGR 12,28 Nov; 5 LNP 14 Oct; 2 Neversink 18 Nov; 2 CPP 17 Nov.
Red-winged Blackbird: 1000 MC 5 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: 2 MC 29 Oct; 6 MC 5 Nov.
Com. Grackle: 1000 MC 8 Nov.
Boat-tailed Grackle: MC 13, 25 Sep (TB).
Pine Grosbeak: 8 Neversink 17 Nov; 12 Neversink 18 Nov (LV); 9 Parksville 19 Nov (JH,ABo).
White-winged Crossbill: Clinton Corners 13,14 Oct (ABu).
Red Crossbill: Parksville 19 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: 50 Neversink 18 Nov; 150 Claryville 19 Nov; Rhinebeck 30 Nov.
Pine Siskin: scattered report starting third week of Sep; 14 Bashakill 27 Oct; 13 Ardsley 16 Nov; 10 Claryville 19 Nov.
Am. Goldfinch: 200 MC 5 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: 23 Summitville Hawk Watch 28 Oct; 2 Tuxedo 28 Oct; 12 Millbrook 3 Nov; Rye Brook 4 Nov; 40 Neversink 18 Nov; 2 ROCK 16 Nov.

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REGION 10—MARINE

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September's mean temperature at Islip was 67.2°F, 1.4° above normal. Central Park hit 88° on the 8th, and high temperatures were recorded at Islip on the 26th (79°) and 29th (78°). Precipitation totaled 1.3", 2.08" below normal. For October, the mean temperature at Islip was 61.1°, a substantial 6.8° above normal; similarly, Central Park's 63.6° mean was 7.0° higher than normal. A recording of 88° at Islip on the 8th set a new monthly record. November's mean temperature was 43.0°, 1.9° lower than the long-term average. Precipitation totaling 3.21" was 0.65" less than usual. Tropical Storm Noel traveled up the eastern US seaboard, reaching us on 3 November. Long Island escaped major damage but was buffeted by 40 mph gusts from the NNE (higher winds were recorded offshore) and heavy rain. Seawatching from the South Shore was disappointing; however, storm-related birds recorded by Angus Wilson from north facing vantages and from sheltered ponds on the south fork included approximately 5000 Laughing Gulls, 26 Bonaparte's Gulls, and 2 Forster's Terns.

In many respects, this fall's migration was unexceptional, featuring neither surfeit nor dearth of fine mornings of birding. Most species were encountered in numbers and contexts conforming to recent norms, and the number of species for which we were unable to find any noteworthy reports was larger than usual. Scarce species for which reasonably complete data were collected include: Red-headed Woodpecker (4), Western Kingbird (8-9), Cave Swallow (8), Orange-crowned Warbler (10-13), Clay-colored Sparrow (10-19), Lark Sparrow (4), Vesper Sparrow (10), Blue Grosbeak (19), and Dickcissel (9-11). The ranges of values indicate uncertainties arising from potential duplication. More unusual, although very much in line with recent trends, was the record total of **6 Ash-throated Flycatchers**. Perhaps we will become used to tallying more Ash-throats than Lark Sparrows! Another memorable highlight of the fall migration was the big hawk flight on Fire Island on 29 September, which featured record-breaking daily totals for N. Harrier (168), Osprey (184), and Merlin (319). Still, for most waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, larids, and landbirds, fall 2007 was simply normal.

Having said all this, we must emphasize one really exceptional trend for the season: fall 2007 will be remembered for decades to come as the year when *all of the irruptive species irrupted.* It is not an exaggeration to state that almost every species ever suspected of making irruptive movements in northeastern North America was on the move this season. If one includes a few reports from beyond Region 10 and adds a dose of December's hindsight, the list of actors included: regionally unfamiliar and highly sought after species, such as Bohemian Waxwing and Evening and Pine grosbeaks; regularly occurring irruptives that are absent for years at a time, such as both crossbills, and Common Redpoll; such generally hard to find birds as Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Northern Shrike; our most familiar irruptives, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, and Purple Finch; a suite of familiar woodland-breeding birds that many birders scarcely think of as migrating at all - Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, and White-breasted Nuthatch; even Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee began what amounted to irruptions for them in the anemic sense of the last fifty years, but neither approached our Region closely.

The mystery and appeal of irruptive species are great, and many birders invest a lot of effort in trying to understand and predict the scope, magnitude, and distribution of these events. The traditional approach focuses on the specialized dietary requirements of some irruptive species and seeks to correlate big southward movements with a combination of generally large population sizes and poor food supply in northern areas. A more agnostic alternative model is based on the observation that the irruptions of some species, even ecologically disparate ones with widely varying diets, tend to occur in the same years. The overall fortunes of species that share similar habitats over large portions of their breeding ranges might be expected to appear linked—for instance if multiple species were to respond similarly to broad-scale factors, such as weather trends.

The irruptions of 2007 commenced with a wave of exceptionally early Red-breasted Nuthatches on Long Island during June. This observation, along with

memories of 1995, 1997, and 1999, prompted SSM to predict five correlated phenomena: 1) a notable irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches during the fall; 2) a pulse of mid-summer molt-migrants, representing forest-breeding Neotropical migrants; 3) a larger than usual Labor Day flight of Myrtle Warblers, including birds that had not finished molting (this late Aug-early Sep flight is discrete from the "normal" arrival of fresh-plumaged birds that commences in late September); 4) a larger than usual Labor Day flight of Purple Finches (again, a phenomenon distinct from the regular Oct-Nov flights); and 5) a larger than usual coastal flight of "resident" woodland breeders: Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Predictions 1 and 3-5 were verified with robust evidence. Even #2 was supported to some extent by a molt-migrant Worm-eating Warbler at Fort Tilden and a mid-summer Blackpoll Warbler in Prospect Park. The correlation of all these events involving such disparate birds suggests a regional mechanism relating to climate or whole ecological communities. In the past, these kinds of flights have tended to occur during and after dry summers in the interior.

Considering the more strictly boreal species, we read this season's forecasts by Ron Pittaway (Ontario) and Matt Young (central New York State) with great interest. Their analyses, based on detailed data concerning the abundance and distribution of particular food sources, predicted some of the fall's events very well, especially in their target regions of southern Ontario and central New York State. But these forecasts didn't really prepare us coastal observers for the series of events we observed this fall on Fire Island: our first redpolls in late October, a White-winged Crossbill on 4 November, and the first of what would be many Red Crossbills on 5 November, but a complete absence of Pine Grosbeak and no Bohemian Waxwings or Evening Grosbeaks until December, and very few even then. Although 2007 may have seen the earliest and biggest incursion ever for Bohemian Waxwings in the northeastern United States, the Pine Grosbeak flight never equaled several recent flights from a few decades ago, when flocks reached Fire Island and Block Island. From a coastal perspective, the Evening Grosbeak flight was absolutely paltry compared with what was routine here just a couple of decades ago. The Pine Siskin flight was heavy, but never rivaled that of 1999, when counts exceeded 1,000 per day at Fire Island. The redpoll flight was earlier and heavier than most years, comparable to 93-94, 97-98, 99-00, and 01-02. The main (October-November) Purple Finch flight was about normal for a good year; what was more unusual was the magnitude of the late August-early September pulse. Both crossbills, although receiving little attention ahead of time, showed better than usual along the coast, where they are usually completely absent. But numbers can't be compared with the big flights of 97-98 and 99-00 and various big flights from the late 60's and early 70's.

Another area in which this fall excelled involved vagrants. At Montauk, a version of the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect played out *ad absurdum* from 13 October right through to the CBC, an account of which appears elsewhere in this issue. A few years after discerning the state's first Pacific Golden-Plover, Andy Baldelli's keen eye added another bird to the state list: a stunning **Cassin's**

Kingbird, seen only on the date just mentioned. A beautiful **Pink-footed Goose,** discovered on 18 November and much studied through season's end and beyond, occurred under circumstances of date and location strongly suggestive of natural occurrence. It is worth noting, however, that this bird was preceded by at least two individuals of this species in Suffolk County: one at Timber Point Golf Course, Great River in the late 1970's (fide Mike Cooper) and one at Spring Lake Golf Course, Middle Island 19 January 1991 (NYSARC, *Kingbird* 43: 23). The former was evidently never reviewed; the latter was deemed "identity accepted, origin uncertain." The Committee's decision was at odds with other authorities, cf. the universally favorable views expressed for even the first modern North American record, from Newfoundland in 1980 (*American Birds* 34: 755; *AOU Check-list*, 6th edition, p. 65). Furthermore NYSARC's characterization of the species as "frequently held in captivity" is inconsistent with the conclusions of other committees (e.g., The Avian Records Committee of Connecticut's determination that only some 30 individuals were held continent-wide: Eighth Report, 1998, *Connecticut Warbler* 18: 162-179). An accelerating series of records (15 by 2002, cited in the *ABA Checklist*, 6th edition, p. 70, plus annual records more recently) has accrued on the heels of a major expansion of the Greenlandic breeding population (e.g., Fox et al. 1989, Population dynamics of Icelandic-nesting geese, 1960-1987; *Ornis Scandinavica* 20: 289-297).

Having completed a more or less final draft of the foregoing, SSM made a curious discovery while hunting something down in an old issue of *American Birds*. In passage after passage, Ken Able's "Changing Seasons" essay for fall 1972 presaged the main points of this fall's Region 10 report: "Nearly all regional editors reported the migration as 'average' or 'normal', noting few obvious waves or groundings of birds....The generally uneventful migration stands in stark contrast to the unprecedented eruption of boreal and montane species. Virtually every species known to stage periodic invasions took part in some area of the country this year." The parallels continue, right down to the tiniest details, such as July and August movements of Tennessee and Myrtle warblers south of their breeding areas! I include this comparison here as an invitation to students of irruptions, to look for climatic or other parallels that might provide a more general explanation of correlated invasions.

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With sorrow we note the untimely passing on 18 October of Al Ott, beloved fellow birder and staunch conservationist. Donna Schulman's touching memoriam to Al appears in the previous issue, KB 57:4, pp. 286-287. Please note that the information in that article regarding donations has changed. For anyone wishing to contribute to Al Ott's efforts to preserve the Ridgewood Reservoir, checks should be made out and mailed to Highland Park Ridgewood Reservoir Alliance, PO Box 790325, Middle Village, NY 11379. We regret that in our Region 10 report in KB 57:4 we mistakenly reported the date of Al's death as 19 October.

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ABBREVIATIONS

1W – 1st winter plumage; 1Y – 1st year plumage; APP – Alley Pond P QUEE; bas – basic plumage; BNL – Brookhaven National Laboratory, T Brookhaven SUFF; BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CCP – Cupsogue County P SUFF; CHP – Conference House P RICH; CLP – Clove Lakes P RICH; CP – Central P NEWY; DHR – Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk SUFF; DOP – Dreier Offerman P KINGS; EH – East Hampton SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field KING; FIHW – Fire Is Hawkwatch at RMSP Field 5, SUFF; FT – Fort Tilden QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P RICH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton SUFF; HHSP -- Hither Hills SP SUFF; JBSP – Jones Beach SP NASS; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End NASS; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge QUEE/KING; KP – Kissena P QUEE; LI – Long Island; MB – Mecox Bay SUFF; MI – Moriches In SUFF; migr – migrant, migrating; MLUA – Mt Loretto Unique Area RICH; MP – Montauk Pt SUFF; Mtk – Montauk, T EH SUFF;

NYBG – NY Botannical Gardens, BRON; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area NASS; OP – Orient Pt SUFF; PB – Pike's Beach, Westhampton SUFF, PL – Pt Lookout NASS; PP – Prospect P KING; Riv sod fields – CR 105 & 43, Sound Av & Doctor's Path, Riverhead SUFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP SUFF; RRes – Ridgewood Reservoir QUEE; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock In SUFF; TRCP – Theodore Roosevelt CP, Mtk SUFF; VCP – Van Cortland P BRON.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: DHR 18 Nov thru (PJL, SSM!, mob), *intro.*

Greater White-fronted Goose: ad Maratooka L, Cutchogue SUFF 4 Nov, joined by 2nd 5 Nov, with 1 through 28 Nov (P.Gillen); 3 Grumman 11 Nov (RJK); Short's Pd, Bridgehampton SUFF 22 Nov (DN).

Snow Goose: arr 7 RMSP 8 Oct (K&SF).

Brant: a few lingered from summer, e.g., Shinn 1 Sep; 10,000 Jam Bay 28 Oct, included many young, indicating another good breeding season (AnW).

BARNACLE GOOSE: DHR 30 Oct thru (VB, mob!).

Mute Swan: 250 Jam Bay 3 Sep.

Tundra Swan: 2 Hook Pd, EH 11 Nov thru (HMc, mob).

Wood Duck: 28 Long Pd, Sag Harbor SUFF 20 Sep (HMc).

Gadwall: 200 Jam Bay 3 Sep.

Eurasian Wigeon: three reports: m PP 28-31 Oct (SN); m Jam Bay 27 Oct-17 Nov; imm m Setauket Mill Pd SUFF 18 Nov (JO).

Blue-winged Teal: 15-20 Jam Bay 1 Sep.

N. Shoveler: 50 Jam Bay 3 Sep; 230 Jam Bay 17 Nov.

N. Pintail: 1-2 m DHR 11 Nov thru, unus loc.

Green-winged Teal: 55 Hook Pd, EH 11 Nov (AnW).

Ring-necked Duck: 67 Duryea's Pd, Mtk 11 Nov (HMc, AnW), good count.

King Eider: 1Y m JBWE 23 Nov (BF), only report.

Com. Eider: scattered reports of small numbers from w LI vantages 8 Oct thru, continuing trend of recent yrs.

Harlequin Duck: arr m Ditch Plains, Mtk 23 Nov (AnW); f PL 28 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: no reports; perhaps warm winter, open water north delayed arr.

Com. Merganser: arr 5 Hook Pd, EH 11 Nov (HMc, AnW).

Pied-billed Grebe: Dune Rd SUFF 25 Oct and Captree I SUFF 29 Oct, unus locs (J&GF).

Horned Grebe: arr 2 GKP 30 Oct (JT); EH 3 Nov (AnW).

Eared Grebe: cont from summer Jam Bay thru 8 Sep.

Cory's Shearwater: "a couple" Hudson Valley shelf pelagic 16 Sep (PGu et al).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: 2 Hudson Valley shelf pelagic 16 Sep (PGu et al).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: "modest numbers" Hudson Valley shelf pelagic 16 Sep (PGu et al).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: Hudson Valley shelf pelagic 16 Sep (PGu et al).

N. Gannet: 9000 RMSP 3 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: 300 Jam Bay 3 Sep; 700 JBWE 15 Sep, feeding flock; 2200 migr RMSP 3 Nov.

Great Cormorant: arr juv Springs EH 22 Sep (AnW).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: L Montauk SUFF 1 Sep (fide HMc), cont from Aug?

Am. Bittern: arr VCP 29 Sep (YG); Dune Rd SUFF 30 Sep (S. Biasetti).

Great Blue Heron: 24 migr JBWE 28 Oct, many (SyS).

Snowy Egret: Dune Rd near Shinn 18 Nov (RG), getting late.

Little Blue Heron: last imm Jam Bay 28 Oct (J Ask).

Cattle Egret: 2 Mecox SUFF 17 Nov (JO).

BLACK VULTURE (R10): 2 CP 13 Oct; N Manhattan NEWY 16 Nov (YG); **6** 40th Ave & 214th Pl QUEE 23 Nov (EM), very unus for LI.

Turkey Vulture: numerous reports thru Oct, most from e LI.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 184 FIHW 29 Sep, record one-day total; season total of 417 also a record.

Bald Eagle: 2 FIHW 5 Sep, 2 FIHW 7 Oct, 13 Oct, & 16 Oct, seasonal record high **6** for loc where rare; other reports: 9 CP 1 Sep-25 Oct; 8 w LI and RICH 2 Sep-8 Nov; 3-4 e LI 13 Oct-19 Nov; JBWE 28 Oct (SyS).
N. Harrier: 168 FIHW 29 Sep, record high; total 429 FIHW season, also a record.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 304 FIHW season.
Cooper's Hawk: total 38 FIHW season, high.
N. Goshawk: f OMNSA NASS 16 Sep (S. Janko); imm PP 19 – 28 Nov (SWh, mob).
Red-shouldered Hawk: Miller Field RICH 16 Sep (W&H Mones); FBF 28 Oct (AnW); Crookes Pt RICH 11 Nov (CB); CP 16 Nov (TF).
Broad-winged Hawk: 4 FT 29 Sep, uncommon on LI; 35 CP 29 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: Mtk 17 Nov (VB).
Am. Kestrel: 298 FIHW 29 Sep; total 731 FIHW season.
Merlin: 319 FIHW 29 Sep, record one-day total; total 1487, high.
Peregrine Falcon: 41 FIHW 7 Oct; total 236 FIHW, high.
Sora: Jam Bay East Pd 12 Sep & West Pd 14 Sep, cont from summer?; CCP 6 Oct (J&GF, JQ), unus date and loc.
Com. Moorhen: River Rd RICH 8 Sep.
American Coot: 50 Jam Bay 17 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: 1000 JBWE 2 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr Riv sod fields 1 Sep; max 17 Riv sod fields 18 Sep; 8 MB 21 Oct; widespread reports of singles from other locs to 28 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: 200 JBSP 1 Sep
Piping Plover: Sagg 20 Oct (AnW), late.
Killdeer: max 75-100 Riv sod fields 9-18 Sep.
Am. Oystercatcher: 150 Shinn 1 Sep; 300 JBWE 13 Nov, 200+ remained thru.
Am. Avocet: Jam Bay 15-25 Sep (LS ph, mob) & same or another intermittenly 6-28 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: MB 23 Nov (SBl, D. Gochfeld), late.
Solitary Sandpiper: Jam Bay 1 Sep (RJK), unus loc; 2 lingered at CP to 27 Oct, late.
Willet: 6 *semipalmatus* MI 3 Sep, late for so many; 49 *inornatus* & 2 *semipalmatus* JBWE 15 Sep.
Upland Sandpiper: Jam Bay 3 Sep (PJL, SSM, SWa), unus loc, only report.
Hudsonian Godwit: 2 ads Jam Bay 1-16 Sep cont from summer, 1remained to 18 Sep; ad JBWE 14-15 Sep.
Marbled Godwit: Jam Bay 8 Sep (M. Mayer).
Red Knot: 250 JBWE 15 Sep.
Western Sandpiper: bas ind cont from summer CCP thru 3 Sep; 10 Jam Bay 12 Sep (P. Post, T. Lundqvist); up to 20 Jam Bay 23 Sep; 15+ JBWE 4 Oct (B. Fogarty).
White-rumped Sandpiper: 25 Jam Bay 3 Sep.
Baird's Sandpiper: 1-2 inds Jam Bay 1-3, 8, 17, 23, 24 Sep; FBF 2 Sep; 1-2 JBWE 2, 10-15 Sep; 2 Riv sod fields 9-13 Sep; MB 23 Sep; JBWE 20 Oct (KO'L), late; Mtk horse farm 21 Oct (AnW).
Pectoral Sandpiper: 20 MB 23 Sep; 2 Captree SP SUFF 6 Nov, getting late.
Stilt Sandpiper: 25 Jam Bay 12 Sep (P. Post, T. Lundqvist); last Jam Bay 6 Oct (J. Borker).
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1-7 JBWE 1 Sep-1 Oct; max 37 Riv sod fields 2-19 Sep; 2-3 Miller Field RICH 13-16 Sep (CH, mob), unus loc; JBWE 11 Oct (J&GF); JBWE 20 Oct (KO'L), late; well reported from other sod fields in mid SUFF.
Long-billed Dowitcher: juv 11 Sep (KF), ad 15 Sep & juv 18 Sep JBWE, unus loc; Jam Bay East Pd 8, 12 Sep; 3 Jam Bay West Pd 16 Sep (J. Ask, KL *et al*); 16 Mass 16 Oct, more than usual at this wintering spot.
Wilson's Phalarope: 3 Jam Bay 6 Sep, cont from summer; last 2 Jam Bay 8-9 Sep.
Red-necked Phalarope: juv Jam Bay 1-14 Sep, cont from summer, increased to two 15 Sep and three (all juvs) 16-17 Sep, last two 18 Sep; PP 12 Sep (RJ).
Laughing Gull: at least 1000 OP 19 Oct (HMc); 1250 FT 28 Oct (CW); 3000+ Accabonac Harbor, EH 3 Nov, associated with tropical storm Noel. These plus large numbers found in other sheltered spots in EH and Mtk totaled >5000 for the day (AnW); 1500-2000 Ditch Plains, Mtk 18 Nov (AnW).
FRANKLIN'S GULL (R10): 1W FT 28 Oct (CW!).
Little Gull: ad L Montauk In SUFF 28 Nov (VB).
Black-headed Gull: 1W L Montauk In SUFF 24 Nov (MC).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 RMSP 18 Oct (KF); 464 Fort Pond Bay, Mtk 21 Nov (AnW).
Herring Gull: 3000 PL 28 Nov.
Iceland Gull: near ad Ditch Plains, Mtk 18 Nov (AnW); 1Y MP 23 Nov (MA, S. Billerman); 2 L Montauk In SUFF 24 Nov

(MC); 1Y Mtk 28 Nov (AnW, AG); 1Y Fort Pond Bay, Mtk 28 Nov .
Lesser Black-backed Gull: numerous and widespread reports; juv RMSP 15 Nov (PJL).
Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull: Bayville NASS 25-26 Oct (RR, mob!), ph.
Black-legged Kittiwake: GKP 11 Oct (CH); 2 ads MP 29 Nov (PJL).
Caspian Tern: 13 widespread reports involving 27 inds 11 Sep-11 Oct.
Royal Tern: numerous and widespread reports include 44 PB 1 Sep; 25 Robbins Is SUFF 22 Oct (P. Gillen); last 2 RMSP 17 Nov (PJL, SSM).
Roseate Tern: 2 L Montauk In SUFF 22 Sep (AnW), only report.
Com. Tern: 2800 JBWE 15 Sep.
Forster's Tern: 500 JBWE 28 Sep; 2 Accabonac Harbor, EH 3 Nov, late, associated with tropical storm Noel.
Least Tern: last 2 JBWE 18 Sep.
Black Tern: max 12 CCP & 8 Shinn 1 Sep; last JBWE 4 Oct .
Black Skimmer: 400 JBWE 15 Sep, inc 60 juvs.
Parasitic Jaeger: 1Y MLUA 12 Sep (KW, TF); RMSP 1 Oct (KF); MP 1-5 Oct (JP); Camp Hero, Mtk 13 Oct (AnW); Maidstone Beach, EH 20 Oct (AnW); OP 19 Oct.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER: juv Hudson Valley shelf pelagic16 Sep (PGu et al), also a second probable individual.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: pair at Tully's Market, Hampton Bays SUFF 18 Oct (OB) built nest there, yet another new loc.
Black-billed Cuckoo: very few reports; first CP 13 Sep; Amagansett, EH 29 Sep; last Mtk 14 Oct.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Wade's Beach, Shelter Is SUFF 7 Nov (D. Gorodnitzki, KvB), late.
Long-eared Owl: 1-2 JBWE 30 Oct thru.
N. Saw-whet Owl: many reports: arr barrier beach 13 Oct; JBWE 16 Oct, dead on roadside (SSM); CP 20 Oct (KN); CHP 26 Oct (RV); FT 28 Oct (D. Guiney); 5 Jones Strip 5 Nov; last JBWE 10 Nov (SyS).
Com. Nighthawk: max 11 Baiting Hollow SUFF 2 Sep (JCl, Sr.), low for this trad site; last 22 Sep.
Chimney Swift: large migr flocks over CP 16 Sep (TF), otherwise few reports & small numbers.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last CP 11 Oct.
***SELASPHORUS* sp.:** 2 reports from NYBG, Bronx: 19 Sep (VB) & 10-13 Nov (MR, LF).
Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 reported: imm RMSP 13 Sep (SD'A et al); imm JBWE 26, 29 Sep (J&GF); FT 29 Sep (SWa); JBWE 29 Sep (DK, SyS); JBWE 5 Nov (SyS).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: well reported 24 Sep thru, i.e: "at least a dozen" KP 15 Oct (JL et al).
Downy Woodpecker: many reports barrier beach.
Hairy Woodpecker: 3 from barrier beach, where rare: 2 RMSP 30 Oct & JBWE 18 Nov; *intro.*
N. Flicker: 170 RMSP 14 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 1 Sep, cont from summer; 2 CP 13 Sep; RMSP 14 Sep (PJL, SSM, mob), rare on barrier beach.
E. Wood-Pewee: last Mtk 13-14 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CHP 8 Sep, only report.
Alder Flycatcher: singles RMSP & Gilgo 13 Sep (PJL, SSM!), seldom confirmed in fall.
E. Phoebe: 50 JBWE 24 Sep (JGi); 20 RMSP 29 Sep.
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: unprecendented 6: Jam Bay 16-17 Nov (SWh ph, mob); DHR 18-25 Nov (PJL, SSM!, mob); Rita's Horse Stables, Mtk 25 Nov thru (SA, mob); MLUA 25-28 Nov (CH); Jam Bay 29 Nov-1 Dec (DR); DOP 1 Dec (TP et al!).
Western Kingbird: 8 or 9 reports, more than usual: CHP 6-8 Sep (JGi, ND, mob) & 11 Sep (PJL); MLUA 8-9 Sep (CH, EJ et al.); Mtk 8 Oct (VB); Glen Cove NASS 14-20 Oct (R. Cioffi, mob); Oak Beach SUFF 21 Oct (J&GF); Willowbrook P RICH 1 Nov; DHR 18-21 Nov (PJL, mob), joined by a 2nd 22-23 Nov (SSi, mob), one cont thru; MP 23 Nov (AnW), Mtk dump 23 Nov (AnW).
CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: West Lake Dr, Mtk 13 Oct (AB, mob! ph), first NY State record.
E. Kingbird: last JBWE 24 Sep.
N. Shrike: BNL 2 Nov (JO); KP 5 Nov (JL); imm Cedar Beach SUFF 11-25 Nov (K&SF, mob); Flax Pd Preserve, Oldfield SUFF 11 Nov.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last CP & Shelter Is SUFF 13 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last JBWE 11 Nov.

Warbling Vireo: last CP 16 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: APP 13 Sep (A&KO); CP 16 Sep (RA); RRes 22 Sep (JL); JBWE 24 Sep (JGi); RRes 2 Oct (JL).
Red-eyed Vireo: last CHP 26 Oct.
Horned Lark: small numbers reported from JBWE, Mtk, FBF from mid Nov thru.
Tree Swallow: 10,000 JBWE 20 Sep; 10,000 Cedar Beach, T Babylon, SUFF 20 Oct; traditional gathering spots.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: Jam Bay 3 Sep, unus date/loc.
CAVE SWALLOW: RMSP 8 Nov (SSM!, DF); HHSP 23 Nov (AnW!); 4 MB 23 Nov (SBl!, D. Gochfeld!); JBWE 24 Nov (S. Billerman!, PD); BP 24 Nov (A. Lazarus, P. Pollack, J. Rabi), many.
Barn Swallow: last 2 JBWE 15 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: big irruption cont from summer; 30 RMSP 16 Sep; 25 RMSP 29 Sep; *intro*.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 9 recorded from 4 coastal sites 29 Sep: 6 FT (SWa), "something of a fallout, although not unprecedented as a coastal migrant, it always feels a bit unusual to see them that way;" DOP (TP), "first time I've seen it there;" JBWE (TWB, GB); RMSP (PJL, SSM); many add'l records of smaller numbers on barrier beaches, e.g., 3 RMSP 14 Oct (PJL, SSM), thru 30 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr JBWE & Mtk 29 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr CP 24 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CP 13 Sep.
E. Bluebird: 40 Springs P, EH 27 Sep, 20 still present 3 Nov (KRu, BRu); last Camp Hero, Mtk 23 Nov (SBl).
Veery: CP 5 Oct, getting late.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr APP 13 Sep (A&KO); Northwest Woods EH 1 Oct (SH), last.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Caleb Smith SP SUFF 2 Sep (JGl); 10 CHP 7 Sep (RV); last Gilgo SUFF 13 Oct (K&SF), late.
Hermit Thrush: arr CP 9 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last CP 24 Oct (MY).
Am. Robin: 500 CHP 7 Sep (RV), many for date; 350 JBWE 8 Nov; 300+ CP 16 Nov.
European Starling: 2000 migr RMSP 28 Nov.
Am. Pipit: max 80 migr RMSP 28 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: 200 RMSP 29 Sep; 280 RMSP 14 Oct; 110 JBWE 16 Nov; 400 MLUA 28 Nov (RV).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Amagansett SUFF 13 Sep (KRu, BRu).
Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler: CP 24 Sep (P. Post, mob) ph, closely resembled ad Golden-winged but with bright yellow chest.
Tennessee Warbler: well and widely reported thru 14 Oct, perhaps related to Spruce Budworm increase to the north.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 10-13 reported: RRes 22 Sep (JL, EM); CP 29 Sep; PP 30 Sep (J. Ascher); PP 9-10 Oct; CP 13 Oct (JS, EL, mob); FT 15 Oct (SSM, SBl, et al.); Mtk 21 Oct (AnW); CP 25 Oct; CCP 25 Oct (J&GF); KP 5 Nov (JL); Captree I SUFF 6 Nov (BB); JBWE 11 Nov (BF); Cedar Beach, T Babylon SUFF 12 Nov (JQ, PJL).
Nashville Warbler: last CP 11 Nov.
N. Parula: last KP 14 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last JBWE 16 Oct, late.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last JBWE 5 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last KP 14 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: well reported thru 9 Oct, perhaps related to Spruce Budworm increase to the north.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last KP 14 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: good early Sep flight, cont from summer, e.g, JBWE 2 Sep.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last CP 13 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last PP 23 Sep.
Yellow-throated Warbler: Mtk 16 Sep (HMc), unus date.
Pine Warbler: last JBWE 18 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: last RMSP 19 Sep.
Palm Warbler: 30 RMSP 21 Sep, all *palmarum*; 20 *palmarum* & 2 *hypochrysea* RMSP 14 Oct; last RMSP & PL 28 Nov.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last JBWE 29 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last KP 17 Nov.
Black-and-white Warbler: last CP 24 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last RMSP 14 Oct.
Prothonotary Warbler: Miller Field RICH 16 Sep (W&H Mones), scarce fall migr.
Worm-eating Warbler: Amagansett SUFF 8 Sep (HMc); APP 30 Sep (PJL), late; scarce fall migr.
Ovenbird: MP 23 Nov; downtown Brooklyn KINGS 28 Nov, both late.
N. Waterthrush: last VCP 14 Oct.
Louisiana Waterthrush: CP 1 Sep; CLP 8 Sep; only reports.
Kentucky Warbler: m Jam Bay 23 Sep (K&SF), only report.
Connecticut Warbler: 12 reports 1-29 Sep, easternmost loc Muttontown Pres NASS.
Mourning Warbler: 4 reports: CP 1, 17 & 25 Sep, CHP 11 Sep.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 70 DOP 29 Sep (TP); imm m inside Delta Airlines terminal at JFK 16 Oct, seen by worker there for 2 weeks (SBl); last Norman J. Levy Pres NASS 29 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: 6 reports 16 Sep-21 Oct, all from western part of Reg.
Wilson's Warbler: last PP & JBWE 23 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last CP 29 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 2 ads & 2 imms banded at Tobay NASS 1 Sep were perhaps local breeders; numerous and widespread reports 1 Sep-18 Nov.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CP 21 Sep, only report.
Scarlet Tanager: last CP 9 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 2 JBWE 11 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: 100+ Sparrow Rock, CP 18 Oct (DS).
Clay-colored Sparrow: 10-19 reported, depending on how multiple reports from JBWE, RMSP, and Mtk are treated—more than usual: JBWE 12 Sep (AO et al.); CP 13-15 Sep (TF et al.); JBWE 17 Sep (AWo, P. Jones); JBWE 24 Sep (SSM et al.); Mtk 28 Sep (VB); CP 29 Sep; RMSP 30 Sep (PJL, SSM); JBWE 1 Oct (KF); JBWE 6 Oct (SyS); Gilgo 8 Oct (J&GF, JQ); RMSP 9-10 Oct (JGi, ND); PP 18 Oct (RJ); 3 Mtk 13-14 Oct (VB, KRu, BRu); JBWE 16-21 Oct (PJL, KF); JBWE 28 Oct (John Ask); Mtk 22-25 Nov (SSi, mob); Napeague SUFF 28 Nov (AnW).
Vesper Sparrow: 10 reported: Mtk 29 Sep (AnW); Field 2 RMSP 10 Oct (J&GF); JBWE 13 Oct (DK); MLUA 13 Oct; VCP 14 Oct (YG); RMSP 16 Oct (PJL); JBWE 21 Oct (BF, SyS); 2 Field 5 RMSP 21 Oct (SSM); RMSP 13 Nov.
Lark Sparrow: 2 JBWE 2-4 Sep (CF, CG, mob); RMSP 21 Sep (PJL); JBWE 1 Oct (PJL).
"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow: arr CHP 16 Oct (DE); 20 Oct JBWE (PJL, SSM); FT 28 Oct (CW); MB 19 Nov (AnW).
Grasshopper Sparrow: JBWE 8 &13-14 Oct (SyS), rare in migration.
LE CONTE'S SPARROW: FT 13 Oct (SBl, ME, PD and SWh, mob!).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: arr Accabonac SUFF 5-6 Oct (KRu); CCP 6 Oct (J&GF, JQ); GKP 8 Oct (CH, mob), 3 there 13 Oct, plus at least one to 30 Oct; *subvirgatus* FT 15 Oct (SSM, SBl, et al.); single *subvirgatus* & *nelsoni/alterus* Captree I SUFF 17 Oct (PJL); 2 Gilgo marsh mid Oct (RJK).
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: well reported from marshes in small numbers, max 8 CCP 6 Oct (J&GF); one RMSP 17 Oct along weedy margin of sandy volley-ball court was in an unus context (PJL).
Seaside Sparrow: reported from marshes in small numbers; max 8 CCP 6 Oct (J&GF).
Fox Sparrow: arr CP 16 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: numerous and widespread reports 13 Sep-21 Oct, nearly half of them on just two days 13-14 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: 40 RMSP 15 Oct; 60 JBSP 16 Oct; leucistic ind Captree SP SUFF 19 Oct (SSM), ph.
Dark-eyed Junco: earlier than usual arrivals inc CP 13 Sep & two CP 16 Sep; general arrival 21 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr RMSP 14 Oct (PJL, SSM); RMSP 30 Oct (SSM, MA); RMSP 8 Nov; Tiana Beach SUFF 12 Nov (S&JBe); 2 JBWE 18 Nov (BF); FBF 24 Nov (R. Cavalieros); JBWE 27 Nov (PJL).
Snow Bunting: 70 JBWE 26 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last CP 9 Oct.
Blue Grosbeak: at least 19 reported, more than usual: max 5 RMSP 13 Sep (PJL, SSM), 3 remained to 15 Sep and 1 to 19 Sep; Gilgo SUFF 22 Sep (ROP, SP); JBWE 23 & 30 Sep (mob); MLUA 30 Sep (TF); 2 PP 30 Sep (J. Ascher); 2 CP 9 Oct (mob); 4 Mtk 13-14 Oct (AnW, mob); 3 RMSP 13-18 Oct (KF, mob).
Indigo Bunting: 3 RMSP 14 Sep, outnumbered here by Blue Grosbeaks!; 5 RRes 22 Sep; 3 Mtk 24 Sep, building to 7 on 30 Sep and max 15 on 4 Oct (KRu, BRu); last 3 East Lake Dr, Mtk 8 Oct (VB).
Dickcissel: 9-11 reports, depending on treatment of multiple reports from JBWE and TRCP: JBWE 11 Sep (J&GF), thru 13 Sep; 3 RMSP (PJL, SSM) 13 Sep; FT 15 Sep (D. Gochfeld); JBWE 7 Oct (SyS); JBWE 13-14 Oct (mob); TRCP 14 Oct (HMc, AnW); MP 14 Oct (AB); Watermill SUFF 20 Oct (AnW); TRCP 21 Oct (AnW).
Bobolink: no large counts or late reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: 1200 migr RMSP 4 Nov; 1000 migr RMSP 8 Nov.
E. Meadowlark: max numbers 8 RMSP & 9 JBWE 14 Oct; "nearly a dozen" JBWE 21 Oct (BF).
Rusty Blackbird: arr CP 29 Sep.
Orchard Oriole: CHP 7 Sep (RV), late.
Baltimore Oriole: Georgica Rd EH 18 Nov (HMc), late.

Purple Finch: early Sep flight cont from summer, e.g., 3 JBWE 5 Sep (PJL), small flock APP 13 Sep (AO et al); "normal" late fall flight commenced with 25 RMSP 29 Sep; 95 RMSP 14 Oct; 37 RMSP 17 Nov.
House Finch: migr conspicuous at RMSP - 70 on 4 Nov, 30 on 5 Nov, & 20 on 7 Nov.
Red Crossbill: arr 12 RMSP 5 Nov (PJL, SSM); singles and small flocks widespread thru; largest lingering flock ca. 60 at Mtk.
White-winged Crossbill: four singles: RMSP 4 Nov (PJL, SSM); Shirley feeder SUFF 11-14 Nov (fide ESch); CP 22 Nov; m JBWE 30 Nov (JGi, S. Jannazzo, SyS).
Com. Redpoll: arr 5 RMSP 29 Oct (SSM); max 15 JBWE 27 Nov; migr singles and small flocks widely reported thru; very few reports from feeders.
Pine Siskin: arr Shelter I SUFF 9 Oct; high counts of migrants at RMSP inc 200 on 4 Nov, 150 on 5 Nov, & 150 on 7 Nov; migr flocks of 10-20 widely reported; very few reports from feeders.
Am. Goldfinch: high counts of migr @ RMSP inc 500 on 4 Nov, 1000 on 5 Nov, 1500 on 7 Nov, 1800 on 16 Nov, and 3600 on 28 Nov.
EVENING GROSBEAK (R10): MP 11 Nov (HMc); 4 Baiting Hollow SUFF 29 Nov (AB).

EXOTICS

Black Swan: Georgica Pd EH 10 Oct (HMc).
Orange-cheeked Waxbill: CP 13 Sep (RA).
Nutmeg Mannikin: FBF 5 Sep (C. Klein); 2 RRes 22 Sep (JL, EM).
Saffron Finch: CP 30 Oct-14 Nov (MG, mob).

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